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Israeli troops shoot dead 2 Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians in the occupied West Bank on Saturday, the Israeli army and Palestinian sources said. A Palestinian human rights group accused the Israeli army of shooting the two in plastic handuffs against a wall on Saturday and shooting them dead. The army denied the allegation, saying the two, both wanted, were shot when one of them prepared to open fire in the occupied West Bank. The Palestine human rights information centre issued a statement with the testimony of what it said was a witness. The witness was not identified. An army spokesman said the soldiers spotted two men, one of them armed. "When one of the Palestinians prepared to shoot, the soldiers opened fire killing both men," the spokesman said. The army said Amin Kassam Rehal, 29, and Ahmed Mustafa Duka, 21, had been wanted for the last 18 months for attacking Israelis and killing fellow Arabs thought to be collaborating with Israeli authorities. The two belonged to the militant Black Panther group identified with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO).

Bomb thrown at police station in upper Egypt

ASSIUT, Egypt, (R) — Bomb was thrown at a police station in the Muslim militant stronghold of Dayrut in upper Egypt, but caused no casualties. Police responded with automatic weapons fire after the unknown assailant, presumed to be a Muslim militant, threw the bomb, which missed its target. The suspect escaped and a source at Dayrut hospital said it had not received any casualties from the incident. The area around Dayrut, in Assiut province about 270 km (170 miles) south of Cairo, is Egypt's biggest single theatre of Muslim militant-related violence that has killed about 70 people this year. Earlier, a resident, contacted by telephone from the nearby city of Assiut, said he heard automatic rifle fire which appeared to be coming from near the town's train station. He said there were other explosions that sounded like bomb blasts. A British woman was killed on a main road just outside Dayrut last month, the most serious attack so far on foreign tourists in the area. Meanwhile, a Muslim militant, arrested near Cairo with 12 kg (26 lb) of explosives in his car, planned to blow up a flyover in the Egyptian capital, security sources said on Saturday.

Jordan presents Israel with 'new wording' for draft agenda PLO considers delaying peace talks

AMMAN (Agencies) — Head of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks Abdul Salam Al Majali said Saturday that his team has presented the Israelis with "a new wording" for the draft agenda reached by the two sides in Washington last month. "Although the two sides have agreed on the draft agenda at the outset of the seventh round of talks, it was discovered later that there was a gap in one of its paragraphs," Dr. Majali said upon arrival in Amman from Washington Saturday. Dr. Majali said the Jordanian delegation is awaiting the Israeli answer to the new wording of the draft agenda. He said the "new language makes the vision clearer and incontestable."

Oct. 27, Jordan discussed its content with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which was reported to have sought some modifications to the agenda. The draft agenda has yet to be endorsed by the government. Reaffirming Jordan's support for the Palestinians, Dr. Majali said the agenda includes "many points that back the Palestinian side, whether in the transitional period or when a final solution to the Palestinian problem is reached."

Dr. Majali reiterated Jordan's commitment to achieving peace in the region through reaching a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, adding that it was "natural for talks to witness progress on certain tracks more than others, or on certain topics more than others."

Mr. Clinton will steer the United States towards a more pro-Israeli stance. Israel refuses to meet the PLO but the group endorsed the start of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Madrid last year and directs from back stage a delegation from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Two radical groups earlier reported to be boycotting the Tunis meeting announced they would take part. The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (PPSF) said in a faxed statement that "boycott is not the right way to deal with political divergences within the PLO" and it would be represented by Secretary-General Samir Goshe. The Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF) said it was sending Deputy Secretary-General Ali Izhaq to show its "commitment to PLO as the only legal framework for the Palestinian struggle."



KING OPENS CHARITABLE SOCIETY: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday opened Khalil Al Rahman Charitable Society and laid the foundation stone for its new facilities. At the opening ceremony, King Hussein met with citizens from the West Bank City of Hebron who founded the society. The citizens lauded Jordan's historic role in defending the Palestinian cause and supporting Palestinian people. Society President Wahid Al Ja'bari delivered an address affirming the unity of the Jordanian and Palestinian people. Mr. Ja'bari said Jordan's decision to sever its legal and administrative ties with the West Bank was a step towards the two peoples. King Hussein said that he was making a personal donation of JD 100,000 to support the society's activities. King Hussein was accompanied at the opening ceremony by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid.

If the Israelis agree to the new proposal, said Dr. Majali, the two sides will start discussing substantial issues listed on the agenda. The draft agenda, which came under attack from various Jordanian political parties, was agreed upon by the Jordanian and Israeli negotiators in Washington on

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Kuwait to argue against easing sanctions on Iraq

KUWAIT (AP) — Qatar on Saturday boycotted a meeting of the interior ministers of six Arab Gulf states, sending its neighbours another message that it is displeased with efforts to solve a border dispute with Saudi Arabia. No Qatari representatives attended a preparatory meeting of interior ministry undersecretaries held in the morning and its seat at the formal inaugural session later in the day remained vacant. Qatar boycotted a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) defence ministers held in Kuwait last week. "They are sending a very strong message that they are not happy with mediation efforts to solve the border dispute," said Abdullah Al Shayeji, a political science professor at Kuwait University. Al Shayeji said he wouldn't be surprised if Qatar did not attend next month's GCC summit in Abu Dhabi. He added that Qatar's dissatisfaction with GCC mediation efforts could lead to its withdrawal from the council. The small emirate's dispute with Saudi Arabia erupted in shooting last August. Two people were killed. Efforts by Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah to solve the problem have been fruitless so far.

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Qatar accused Saudi forces of penetrating 12 kilometres (seven miles) into its territory. Saudi Arabia says the dispute was between tribal chieftains, not soldiers. On Oct. 27, Qatar shocked its GCC partners by sending an ambassador to Baghdad. The council's member countries have shunned Baghdad since Iraq's Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Speaker's at the opening session of the Kuwait meeting made no reference to Qatar's boycott or its feud with the Saudis. But Kuwait's Interior Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al Humoud Al Sabah told Al Anba newspaper earlier that the decisions taken by the interior ministers would not be "useful" in the absence of "effective participation."

Abdullah Bishara, the GCC's secretary general, focused on the need for wider cooperation among the Gulf states to combat a surge in crime. Kuwait has witnessed a marked rise in crime and violence, some of it blamed on fundamentalist movements, since its liberation from a seven-month Iraqi occupation in February 1991. The Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. It was formed in 1981 to counter the perceived threat from Iran during the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

France threatens to reject EC-US accord

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister Pierre Berégovoy threatened on Saturday to reject a U.S.-European Community (EC) deal on farm trade, saying it was unacceptable to France and against the interests of European agriculture. With farmers threatening mass action in the countryside, France looked headed for a showdown with its EC partners on the bitterly debated accord, finally struck in Washington on Friday.

Mr. Berégovoy said a plan to reduce the volume of subsidised EC farm exports by 21 per cent was incompatible with the EC's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which itself was overhauled after much acrimony last May. "The plan constitutes a grave threat for agriculture not just in France but in the whole of Europe," he said. "Europe cannot return the CAP in May, only to undo it in November."

Some political commentators, including Pierre Haski from the centre-left newspaper Liberation, dismissed such talk as French posturing intended not to scupper the deal but to extract maximum EC compensation for it. But EC Commission President Jacques Delors said he expected some tough wrangling when his commissioners meet next Wednesday. "There will be a battle of figures," Mr. Delors, himself a Frenchman, told journalists in Paris.

Mr. Delors sought to pacify French farmers who fear the deal will devastate their livelihoods, telling journalists in Paris EC negotiators had won important concessions from the United States. "Although we are asking for a lot of sacrifices and although many in France are worried, I think about them (the farmers) a lot. I have always thought of them," he said.

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Sabah left for the United Nations Saturday to argue against any relaxation of U.N. sanctions against Baghdad, officials said. Sheikh Saud, outgoing Kuwaiti ambassador to Washington and a member of the ruling family, will try to counter an Iraqi campaign led by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz. Iraq has said that to coincide with a periodic review of the U.N. sanctions Mr. Aziz, who left Amman for New York Saturday, will deliver a new report on Baghdad's compliance with U.N. resolutions demanding Iraq destroy its weapons of mass destruction.

Shortly before departure Sheikh Saud told the official Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) that he would ask the chairman and members of the U.N. Security Council to give the problem of missing Kuwaitis the same attention as they have given to Iraq's nuclear and other weapons programmes. The 800 or so missing Kuwaitis are an emotive domestic issue because some of their relatives believe the government is dragging its feet in trying to secure their release. Iraq says it has handed back all the Kuwaitis it detained when its forces occupied the emirate in August 1990. Sheikh Saud said: "We will bring up the reasons why the sanctions must continue — Iraq's failure to comply with Security Council resolutions, especially those on releasing Kuwaiti prisoners of war and hostages. "We are used to the lies of the Iraqi regime, which will try to remove the economic blockade," he said.

Non-member of the Security Council has advocated that the embargo against Iraq be eased or lifted. Sheikh Saud, who often spoke for Kuwait on U.S. television during the Gulf crisis, will also meet members of the incoming Clinton administration and say goodbye to Bush officials. The defeat of Mr. Bush in presidential elections earlier this month was a shock to many Kuwaitis, who saw the incumbent as a deterrent against any Iraqi attempt to repeat the invasion. But officials say they are satisfied that U.S. policy in the Gulf will not change significantly under President-elect Bill Clinton. The Kuwaiti government has not yet appointed a new ambassador to the United States.

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Italian diplomat to present U.N. at least talks

INDIAN (R) — Indian Ambassador Chinnappa Irekhan will represent Secretary-General Boutros Bout-Ghali at multilateral Middle East negotiations from January 1, Mr. Irekhan, 55, who is retiring from the Indian diplomatic service, will represent the chief of working groups dealing with Middle East arms control and regional security, environment, economic and social development as well as peace. India, a strong supporter of the Palestinians, established diplomatic relations with Israel earlier this year. Mr. Irekhan joined the Indian diplomatic service in 1958 and has been his country's U.N. representative since 1986. He was ambassador to Hanoi in 1975-76 and permanent representative to United Nations in Geneva from 1977 to 1980.

Protest in Paris over death of young Arab

PARIS (R) — Anti-racist activists held a 1,000-strong demonstration on Saturday to protest against the acquittal of a baker who shot dead a young Arab in a shop in the eastern town of Nanterre. The acquittal eight days after the shooting has outraged France's political and judicial establishment who say the verdict was motivated by racial prejudice and legal reasoning. The baker, 40-year-old Mario-Josef Garnier, fired his rifle out of fear the Arab started pilfering shop goods. "Justice for Ali Rifa'at," banners referring to the name of the Arab shot while he was looking for his friends in the town of Nanterre on Saturday night in May 1990. Anti-racist leader Sylvie, who led the demonstration in central Paris, condemned the acquittal of Los Angeles policemen who filmed beating up a black man, Rodney King. That act led to last April's riots in Los Angeles and other U.S. cities. "The new president, (Bill) Clinton, could give us the lessons we need to learn," Mr. Sylvie said in Saturday's edition of the paper Le Monde.

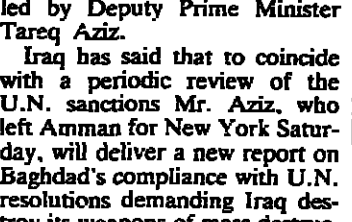
Bhutto to begin long 'train' march

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan officials said Saturday they would ban opposition leader Benazir Bhutto from starting a cross-country train ride aimed at drumming up support for her campaign to oust the government. "We will certainly go on the train (on Monday)," the former prime minister said. But Information Secretary Salim Gul said public demonstrations were banned in the southern province. Even if Ms. Bhutto and other opposition leaders arrive individually to take the train they will not be allowed to board, Mr. Gul said. Ms. Bhutto's long train crusade is planned to begin in Karachi and travel much of the length of Pakistan to Rawalpindi, 18 kilometres from Islamabad, the starting point of her march last Wednesday to remove the government that was broken up by police. In the western city of Quetta, most shops and offices closed in response to an opposition strike call and police arrested 100 people and fired tear-gas to disperse a protest. Police used the same method on Saturday to break up a small crowd planning to march from Rawalpindi to parliament house. Ms. Bhutto would leave the train before Rawalpindi because the government has banished her from the city and from Islamabad for 30 days. An aide at Ms. Bhutto's Bilawal house in Karachi dismissed the government's conditional offer of talks on Friday. "Talks cannot be held between the hunted and the hunter," the source said. "If you are sincere about talks you should take positive steps by ending the witch-hunt."

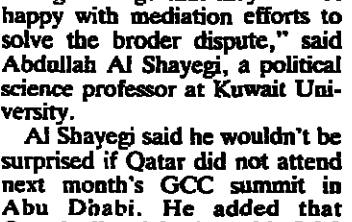
Yemenis urged to ignore strike call

SANAA (R) — Yemen's ruling and pro-government parties urged people on Saturday to ignore an opposition general strike call to protest at a delay in multi-party elections. The People's General Congress (PGC) of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Yemen Socialist Party and 11 other parties said in a joint statement the strike call was "illegitimate and serves neither the parties which called for it nor the people." Opposition parties had urged Yemenis to go on strike on Sunday. They say that under the May 1990 unification accord between North and South Yemen, general elections should be held before Nov. 22 this year and the country's ruling institutions should be dissolved. The government has put off the elections until April 27 and says it will stay in office until polling. The National Congress, a coalition of 10 opposition parties and 22 unions and societies of Arab nationalists, moderates, leftists and Islamists said the strike was "a political right." They accused the ruling party of using government bodies and the state finances in their own interests and called for a broad-based interim government until the elections. The pro-government parties said in their Saturday statement the strike call "in these circumstances in which the citizen suffers high cost of living, rising prices and speculations in the exchange rate of the dollar does not serve the people as much as it serves certain people seeking self-gains."

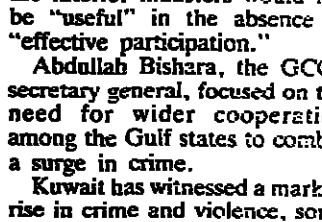
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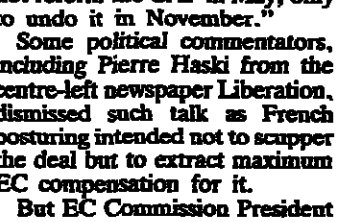
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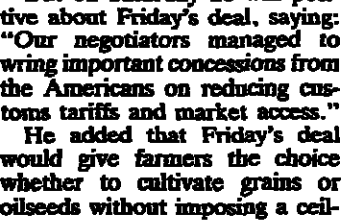
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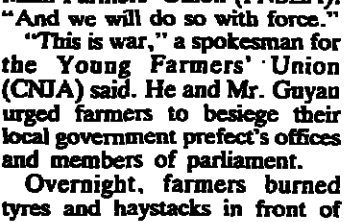
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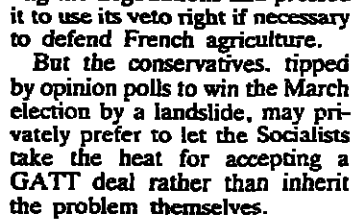
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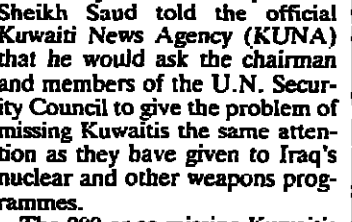
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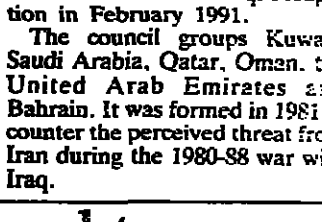
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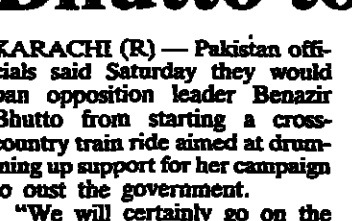
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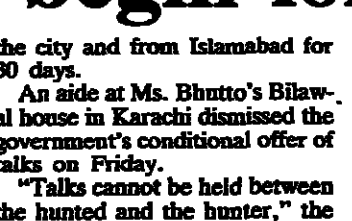
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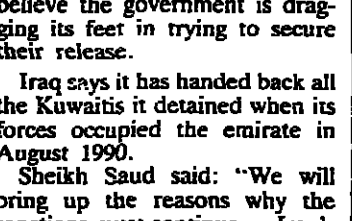
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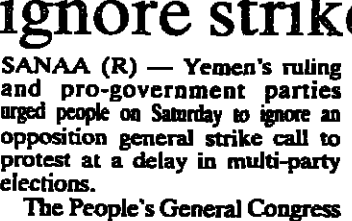
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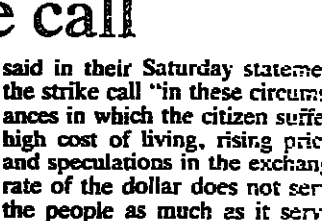
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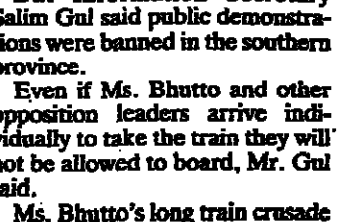
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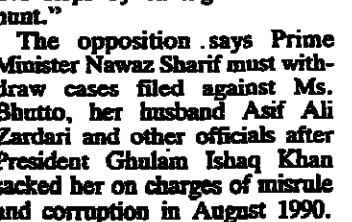
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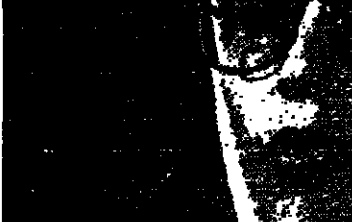
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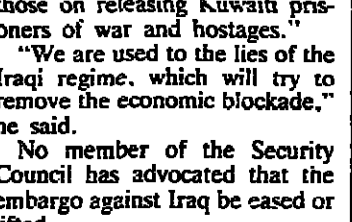
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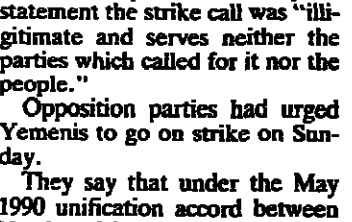
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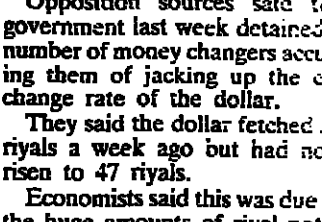
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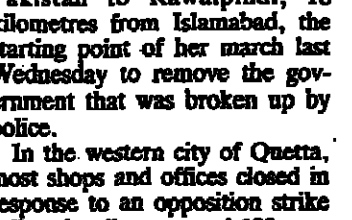
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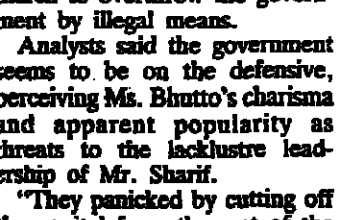
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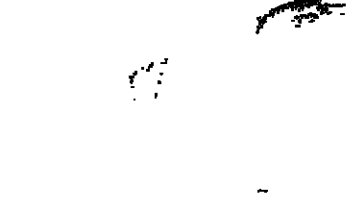
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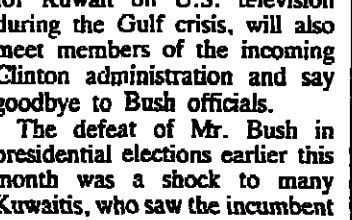
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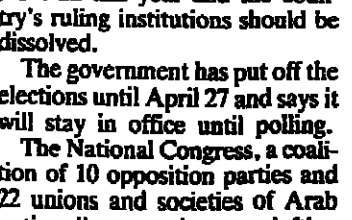
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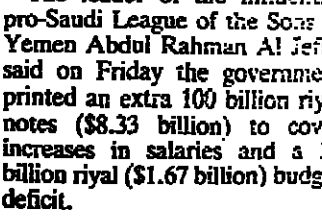
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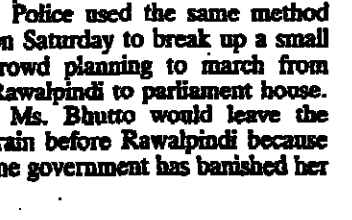
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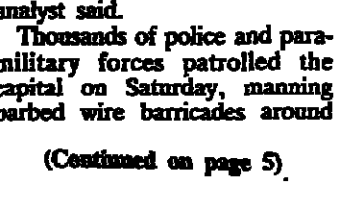
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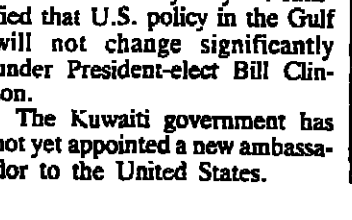
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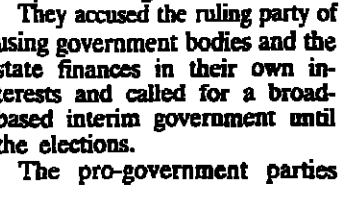
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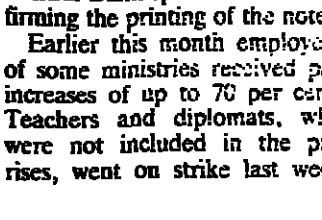
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Iraq says Kurdish rebels chasing federation mirage

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq told its Kurdish rebel foes Saturday that their attempts at federation or independence were in vain and they would eventually have to accept Baghdad's terms for limited autonomy.

"They are chasing a mirage," said President Saddam Hussein's press officer Abdul Jabbar Mohsen, declaring that the Western powers protecting Iraqi Kurds and neighbouring states were all unhappy with the state of affairs in Iraqi Kurdistan.

"(Kurdish rebel leader) Jalal Talabani and other traitors of the Kurdish people... did not need a meeting by the foreign ministers

of Iran, Syria and Turkey... to know that none of them approves the establishment of a Kurdish state or a federated system for Kurds," said Mohsen in a signed editorial in Babel, a newspaper owned by President Hussein's son, Uday.

The Kurdish issue for America, the West, Iran and other countries in the region is utilised as a lever to influence Iraq's policy whenever such policy runs contrary to the West's interests," he said.

Rebel Iraqi Kurds, who held elections in May, have already set up a regional government in Irbil and their parliament resolved on

Oct. 4 to establish a federated state.

Iraqi opposition leaders, meeting in northern Iraq last month, endorsed the concept of federalism for the Kurds within "a united, democratic Iraq."

But in Ankara last week, the foreign ministers of Turkey, Syria and Iran voiced opposition to the establishment of a federal Kurdish state in Iraq and any moves which might lead to the country's disintegration.

"Mr. Mohsen said the West and Iraq's neighbours were not concerned about Iraq's unity when opposing its dismemberment, but cared 'for the unity of Turkey as

an allied country with a strategic position."

Turkey, battling its own rebel Kurds for eight years, fears the establishment of an Iraqi Kurdish state on its doorstep.

"Had they (the West and Iraq's neighbours) been able to divide Iraq into Arabs and Kurds, without influencing the neighbouring countries, they would not have hesitated to do so," Mr. Mohsen said.

Most of Iraqi Kurdistan, under the protection of allied warplanes based across the border in Turkey, is in the hands of rebel Iraqi Kurds.

Western allies discuss export curbs to Iran

BONN (AP) — Representatives of seven allied nations met in a secret location Friday to forge a policy on high-tech exports to Iran and other adversaries.

In Washington, an administration official said the United States wanted to push for an embargo on the sales to Iran of all technology which could have military uses even if designed for civilian purposes.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said all seven nations were in agreement on the need to prevent sales of nuclear components to Iran. But, he said, "extending that to dual use technology is harder." Japan, for example, is reluctant to curtail technology sales to Iran, he said.

"Our position goes further than what the Europeans will

support" too, he said.

Delegates from the "group of seven" nations — the United States, Britain, Germany, Japan, France, Canada and Italy — met in Bonn.

An official with Germany's Economics Ministry, who spoke on condition of anonymity, described the talks as confidential and refused to disclose the specific site. He also said the participants hadn't decided whether the outcome would be made immediately public.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher had said Thursday that the United States would participate but offered few details.

The virtual news blackout appeared to reflect the sensitivity of the topic and broad disagree-

ment among the nations about the Iranian situation.

The officials also discussed curbing exports to Iraq, North Korea and Libya, sources said. All but Libya are suspected of trying to develop nuclear weapons capability.

The United States is especially concerned about the booming business being conducted by Germany and Japan with Iran. Germany is Iran's largest Western trading partner, with exports of about \$4 billion.

The Economics Ministry official said he didn't know what his country's position would be in the talks, or precisely what the American side was seeking.

Germany has been forced to tighten its export control laws because of disclosures that Ger-

man companies helped build a chemical weapons plant in Libya, helped with Iraq's nuclear weapons programme and were involved in the arms buildup in India and Pakistan.

The industrialised countries have refrained from selling Iran military or nuclear-related equipment, but there is no common position on the sale of dual-use technology, which can be applied to either civilian or military purposes.

The U.S. concern is focused not only on Iran's nuclear weapons potential but also on possible Iranian development of ballistic missiles and germ warfare capability.

U.S. officials also are disturbed by Iran's recent purchase of Russian submarines.

In Mogadishu, fate is a shot in the dai

By G.G. Labelle
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — Mohammad Ali Hamoud, 13, lay with his shattered right leg held stationary by a pin struck through the thigh. He explained that another youngster had shot him quite by accident.

"He was not shooting at me," the boy said. "He was just shooting."

In Mogadishu, Hamoud's case is not unusual.

Hardly an hour passes without the rattle of a submachine gun or a burst of artillery fire. The words "random violence" seem invented for the place, and the teenage gunmen are straight out of the gang that couldn't shoot straight.

No more than 2,500 of the 20,000 armed men in the two main militias had any military training, says a report by the Africa Watch human rights group, and only a "relatively small number" of gunman victims are actual fighters.

"It's just like a cowboy film, but there it's fiction. Here it's quite real," said Omar Sabrie Abdullah, a Somali who works for Keyesney Hospital, run by the International Red Cross.

Foreign volunteers serving with famine relief agencies live and work in guarded, walled compounds and use walkie-talkies to arrange for carloads of hired gunmen to protect them when they drive outside.

Mogadishu's gunmen do not limit their shooting to skirmishes along the line that divides the rival militias in the northern and southern sectors. They fire in anger or elation, while stealing, as a warning, even to make a point in an argument.

One day, two men started shooting during a dispute in the office compound of UNICEF, the U.N. Children's Fund. Three Somalis were wounded and one died later. Neither of the gunmen was hit.

At Keyesney Hospital, nurses pulled up the gown of a 4-year-old boy to show the bandages where his penis had been. He was hit by a stray shot while walking with his mother.

Dr. Paiva Laurila, a Finnish anesthesiologist, said that 38 men, women and children were wounded when a man fired a rocket-propelled grenade that sprayed a street crowd with shrapnel. He had

become angry when told he did not have enough money to buy that, a narcotic plant chewed by Somalis.

Youngsters grow up learning "that the one with the gun is the powerful one," Dr. Laurila said.

A volunteer American surgeon, Dr. Broderick Franklin of Washington, D.C., said most gunshot wounds he treats at home are inflicted on the intended victims.

"Here," he said, "it's almost the rule that the victim of gunfire was accidentally wounded. By far most of the bomb blast victims and gunshot victims are not the combatants... they're innocent bystanders."

Dr. Franklin, 31, said the main danger was in the sheer number of guns.

"There are guys with guns walking around everywhere," he said. "You never know who they're going to shoot or where they're going to shoot."

His point was illustrated when local radio reported recently that the two main militia leaders, Gen. Mohammed Farah Aided and interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad,

were expected to peace talks.

In celebration, gun assault rifles, machine guns, and other weapons were fired. Foreign volunteers, full-scale war, and walkie-talkies were all in the air.

The main goal of the Soviet Union, States in the line of 1980s, when the Somalia ultimately its strategic location Indian Ocean near East oil states.

Mobs broke out after President M. Siad Barre was nearly two years went to whomsoever or buy them.

Mike McDonagh, relief agency, says the question of what to do with the poor African country strategic prize.

"There is no war," he said. "Who put this country back again?"

Somalia aid conference set for Addis Ababa

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations has invited rival Somali warring clans to attend an international conference on removing obstacles to saving the starving in Somalia, a U.N. spokesman said.

The meeting will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from Dec. 3 to 5, a spokesman from the U.N. Department of Humanitarian Affairs told a news briefing.

Representatives from 11 Somali political movements and 15 clans have been invited to the talks, so as to ensure their cooperation in allowing relief supplies to reach nearly one million people facing starvation, he said.

"The problem is not one of contributions, but a question of security," he added.

Gunmen regularly attack and loot food convoys in Somalia, where famine caused by the worst drought for decades has compounded anarchy and clan warfare which have taken place since rebels overthrew dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991.

The new head of U.N. operations in Somalia, Iraqi diplomat Ismat Kittani, said Thursday that he had no mandate to impose law and order on the warring clans.

"It would be very bad for us to

intervene in internal squabbling," he told a news conference in Nairobi just nine days after taking up his post. "There can be no hidden agenda in the United Nations."

Mr. Kittani succeeds Mohammed Sahnoun, who resigned last month after being rebuked by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for charging the U.N. with a failure to react in time to the crisis.

Mr. Sahnoun made those criticisms at a donor pledging conference in Geneva in mid-October, which backed a 100-day U.N. Emergency Action Programme

for Somalia. The Som were not invited to a conference.

About \$29 million pledged by donors towards the "action programme" have to be paid, according to a spokesman.

The plan provides for infusion of food and expansion of supplement programmes, such as kitchens run by the Red Cross and the U.N. Committee of the R.

"Other contributing pipeline and will be next week."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

'Clinton can break Mideast deadlock'

CAIRO (R) — U.S. President-Elect Bill Clinton could break deadlock in Middle East peace talks by reopening contacts with the PLO and involving the United Nations more directly, Egypt's Al-Ahram newspaper said Saturday. The semi-official newspaper directed a series of ideas for unblocking the peace talks to the new U.S. leader, echoing the negative sentiment of Arab negotiators that the negotiations were stalled and had not fulfilled expectations. "It is clear that a year after the start of the talks they have not achieved anything although they should have accomplished positive and specific results in this time," said the paper. Egypt, Israel's only Arab peace partner, is at the centre of intensive efforts to keep Arab negotiators in the talks. Syrian and Palestinian delegations in Washington said Friday they might pull out if the current deadlock lasted to 1993. Mr. Clinton could reopen contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), persuade the U.N. to form a committee to monitor the talks, set deadlines for specific negotiation goals and ask all parties to recommit themselves to U.N. resolutions which are the basis for the talks, the paper said. "Another step is direct intervention with the parties to prevent them resorting to military escalation as a tactic to show predominance in the field and carry weight at the negotiating table," Al-Ahram said, apparently referring to recent fighting between Israel and Hizbollah guerrillas in South Lebanon.

Indian premier stops over in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Indian Prime Minister Narashima Rao met PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat Friday to discuss Middle East peace negotiations and "the need for international protection for Palestinians," the Palestinian News Agency (Wafa) said. Mr. Rao, on his way to Senegal for a meeting of 15 Non-Aligned leaders, also met Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui.

Qatar to boycott GCC meeting

KUWAIT (R) — Qatar will probably boycott a meeting of Gulf interior ministers opening in Kuwait Gulf diplomats said. Qatar, angered by a border row with Saudi Arabia, is the only member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which did not send the undersecretary of its Interior Ministry to Kuwait for a preparatory meeting Friday. The other GCC members are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Officials at the Qatar embassy in Kuwait had no immediate comment on the undersecretary's absence, which is in line with Qatar's recent policy of staying away from all GCC functions. Qatari officials have complained to private Saudi Arabia dominates the organisation, set up in 1981 to shield the Gulf states from the effects of the Iran-Iraq war. Qatar missed a meeting of GCC housing ministers and then a meeting of GCC defence ministers in Kuwait a week ago. Earlier this week, Gulf diplomats said preparations for a GCC summit in Abu Dhabi next month were going ahead regardless of whether Qatar continued to boycott the organisation. The interior ministers will discuss internal security cooperation between the wealthy oil-producing states. Saudi Arabia Saturday invited Qatar to attend a meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) due to be held in Riyadh on Dec. 1. Qatar Radio said Saudi Foreign Minister

Prince Saud Al Faisal sent a written message to his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Hamad Ibn Jassim Ibn Jabr Al Thani inviting him to the meeting.

Turkey closer to Europe — Demirel

ISTANBUL (AP) — Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel pressed Friday for full membership in the EC by saying Turkey was closer to NATO and Europe than its immediate neighbours in the East. Mr. Demirel made the statement at the second annual conference of journalists from the European Community (EC) and Turkey. Turkey is now an associate EC member. He told EC journalists: "We are security partners with Norway and Denmark and the United States (in NATO). Although we have important and close relations with our immediate neighbours Syria, Iraq, Iran, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and Russia, we have no alliances with them. Yet with you, we are allies, treaty allies. This makes Turkey closer to you than some would be members of the Community such as neutral Sweden, Finland or Austria." While NATO-partner Turkey is a Muslim country, he said, it is "the only Muslim country that has separated what you call church and state... we are the only proven example of compatibility of Islamic and Western values within the context of secular democracy. Turkey vindicates what Europe has always stood for."

Journalist murdered in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP) — A reporter for a pro-Kurdish leftist magazine was shot and killed on a street in this southeastern city, his editor said. He was the 12th Turkish journalist killed this year in similar circumstances. Namik Taranci, 37, the Diyarbakir correspondent for the weekly Gercek (The Truth), was shot five times while walking to work, said Yucel Ozdemir, the managing editor of the Istanbul-based magazine, told the Associated Press. Witnesses said the assassin, a man in his late teens, escaped. Mr. Ozdemir said Mr. Taranci had been receiving anonymous death threats recently. Most of the other victims worked for leftist and pro-Kurdish publications in this Kurdish-dominated region, where a guerrilla war between Kurdish separatists and security forces has been raging. No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks. Some local sources have said that Kurdish Muslim group was responsible for most of the killings of journalists. But others, including human rights advocates, said there is growing evidence to suggest that the security forces are protecting and inciting the assassins.

Cyprus battered by storms

NICOSIA (R) — Dozens of motorists were trapped in their cars by floods in the Cypriot coastal resort of Limassol following heavy rain Saturday, the Cyprus News Agency reported. The agency quoted a fire brigade spokesman as saying emergency services responded to 55 calls for help and rescued a couple who had fallen into a flooded sewage ditch. Many roads in the holiday island's Troodos Mountains were said to be impassable after rain triggered landslides. Not to be put off by the weather, the Cyprus Football Association said it was pressing ahead with plans for five first division games later in the day. Cyprus is a popular winter destination for thousands of sun-seeking tourists from Europe.

Islam feeds Gulf links with ex-Soviet republics

By Christine Hauser
Reuters

ABU DHABI — Islam is boosting economic and political ties between the Gulf and six new Muslim republics born after the Soviet Union collapsed last year. Gulf Arab states and Iran are offering everything, from oil to expertise, to help develop the infant economies of Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kirghizistan and Kazakhstan in Central Asia.

"The common religion has created a feeling of brotherhood towards these areas," Saeb Al Jarwan, director-general of Sharjah Chamber of Commerce, told Reuters. "The relation of Islam has contributed to this (cooperation)."

But benevolence is not the main factor motivating them.

The pro-Western Gulf Arab states, sometimes allied with secular Turkey, hope their economic aid and example will help foster politics of moderation in a region increasingly prone to Muslim fundamentalist influences, Gulf diplomats say.

Fundamentalist Iran hopes its growing links with its development-hungry Muslim neighbours would help it break out of what it sees as Western-imposed isolation, and give it a greater say in regional politics, they add.

Members in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are building mosques, five-star hotels, banks and oil pipelines across the predominantly Muslim Central Asia to help them switch their economies from state-controlled to market-oriented.

Iran is using oil cooperation and radical Islamic politics to woo them.

"When they were looking for somebody to help them, Iran was there," says one Gulf analyst,

referring to the economic and political turmoil caused by the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"Of course this leads to political influence. Iran didn't link up with them for their blue eyes," Iran helped form two new economic groups to increase access to ports and oil projects in Central Asia.

The six joined Iran, Pakistan and Turkey and set up the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO). The group, with a population of 300 million stretching over 4.5 million square kilometres of land, forms a huge potential market.

This fact alone has unleashed countless opportunities for promoting regional cooperation," ECO Secretary-General Sham-

shad Ahmad said in September. Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan have also set up the Caspian Sea Littoral States Cooperation Organisation, which controls massive oil and gas resources and navigation facilities.

"The world cannot use the gas and oil of the Caspian Sea without the cooperation of the Caspian Sea countries," Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said.

Such economic blocs are also forging close political links.

Iran and Tajikistan, a mainly Muslim state of more than five million people, have set up a consultative body to deal with regional and world issues. It is the only Central Asian state which

speaks Farsi, the official language of Iran.

The GCC, grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), is also for a bigger political role.

The oil-rich states up diplomatic relations with the republics and are trying to promote their ways to economies there.

In September, the business groups from Soviet Union came to learn how to do business with the republics. It allowed a meeting of states in the UAE, which pledged to boost ties with the six rep-



Centro Linguistico Italiano "Al Corum"

has the pleasure to announce that the Arabic Language Course foreigners will start on Sunday, Nov. 22, 1992, of three months duration. Lessons will be Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday from 18 to 19:30. Regarding Italian language courses of December/92 for beginners start on Dec. 6th, 1992. Courses for stage two and three will be announced later.

"So Little Known So Much to Know"

Dott.ssa. Mattencio Gra
Presidente Ono

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact:
Tel. 06-827765 — Tel. & Fax: 06-819454
P.O. Box 930096, Amman - Jordan
We are located in Jabal Amman, Fifth Circle, near Arab Bank Branch, first floor.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Reves d'enduits
17:37 Jeux sans frontieres
19:00 News French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Family Matters
21:10 Documentary
22:00 News in English
22:30 Law and Order

PRAYER TIMES

04:44 Fajr
06:05 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
14:13 'Asr
16:38 Maghreb
17:58 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swiss
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzianita Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.
628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
772561.
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.
Assyrian International Church Tel.
685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811285.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932.
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 05 / 12
Aqaba 11 / 21
Desert 04 / 14
Jordan Valley 12 / 30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-
man 16, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings:
Amman 59 per cent, Aqaba 40 per
cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal Al Dahlah 827195
Dr. Jamal Al Ja'fari 796460
Dr. Walid Al Khatib 630441
Dr. Walid Khatib 659717
Firas pharmacy 659717
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asam pharmacy 637053
Nasrallah pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Sawadhi pharmacy 637601
Fifth circle pharmacy 813141
Sami pharmacy 661898
Tadil pharmacy 621366
Yotif pharmacy 624423
Al Atia pharmacy 777172
Al Azouni pharmacy 888581
Hisham pharmacy 771957
BRID:
Dr. Walid Ibrahim 244412
Alkayd pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Maysoon Hadadin (-)

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630441
Rescue 630441

Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021

Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111

Telephone Information
(Directorate assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

18:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
17:35 London (RJ)
18:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:30 Athens (RJ)
19:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
19:25 Vienna (RJ)
20:10 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Cairo (GF)
12:30 Bahrain (GF)
14:30 Moscow (SU)
16:00 Doha, Damascus (SD)
19:50 Beirut (ME)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:45 Aqaba (RJ)
09:25 Larnaca (RJ)
09:40 Beirut (AZ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah, Aqaba (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 1)

09:45 Beirut (RJ)
09:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:30 Vienna (RJ)
11:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:00 Rome (RJ)
12:10 Athens (RJ)
12:30 Riyadh (RJ)
12:45 Jeddah (RJ)
13:15 New Delhi (RJ)
13:30 Damascus (RJ)
14:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
14:15 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
14:30 Bangkok (RJ)
14:45 Sanaa (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in JD

Apple (red)
Banana (medium)
Banana (Muzammar)
Beans
Cabbage
Carrot
Cauliflower
Cucumber (large)
Cucumber (small)
Eggplant
Garlic
Grapes
Lemon
Marrow (large)
Marrow (small)
Onion (dry)
Orange
Pepper (hot)
Pepper (sweet)
Potato
Tomato
Fig
Guava
Spices
Mint
Green Olive

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1992



CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS SARVATH LEAVE FOR UK: Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath Saturday left Amman for the United Kingdom on a four day visit. The Crown Prince is scheduled to deliver a Churchill Memorial Lecture at the headquarters of the English Speaking Union in London. He will also deliver an address at the "One World Broadcasting Trust" which caters for the development of international relations between different countries. The Prince's agenda also includes the distribution of annual awards for the best production of media programmes on communications between rich and poor countries. The Prince and Princess were seen off by a number of Royal Family members, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, senior officials and high ranking army officers in addition to the British Ambassador to Jordan.

Kabariti opens training course

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti Saturday opened a training seminar at the Workers Educational Institute.

A total of 40 participants taking part in the 10-day meeting will have lectures on the labour law, labour union's activities, evaluation of workers' production, labour movements of the Arab World and the role of workers in society.

The opening session was addressed by the minister who stressed that educational programmes for workers were bound to further create leaders equipped with better knowledge to serve their country. The Workers Educational Institute Director Ahmad Shawabkeh said that the training seminar was part of the institute's annual programme for 1992. The institute, which was founded in 1968, has so far organised 155 training programmes benefiting 4,400 workers, he said.

Mr. Shawabkeh said that the current seminar aimed at raising the educational standard of union leaders.

Vatican-Israeli relations require work, says Pope's envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Vatican Deputy Foreign Minister Claudio Celli announced in Amman Saturday that much work is required before diplomatic relations with Israel can be achieved.

"We are working towards normalising relations but that process is being done within specific framework that will be conducive to peace in the Middle East region," Msgr. Celli said following a meeting with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber.

Msgr. Celli said: "We are trying to enter into a dialogue with countries of the region with the purpose of facilitating the peace process."



Vatican Deputy Foreign Minister Claudio Celli and his delegation meet with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber in Amman Saturday (Petra photo)

The talks with Dr. Abu Jaber revolved around the situation in the Middle East region and the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, according to an official statement.

Dr. Abu Jaber briefed the Vatican envoy and his accompanying delegation on the ongoing peace process and outlined the Jordanian position particularly with regard to its call for the implementation of U.N. resolutions for the sake of achieving a lasting settlement.

Dr. Abu Jaber emphasised the importance of Jerusalem for Jews and Muslims and he stressed that the city constitutes an integral part of the Occupied Arab territories.

The minister also referred to the moral and religious importance of the Vatican in helping exercise an effective role aimed at the achievement of a just and lasting peace, the statement added.

Following the meeting Msgr. Celli who arrived Friday said the talks presented an opportunity for the exchange of views on ideas with regard to the region questions and means of intensifying efforts to bolster Jordan-Vatican relations.

Arab school textbook workshop opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A six-day regional workshop on school textbooks for basic education in Arab countries was opened in Amman Saturday, with the participation of experts from various Arab countries.

Deputy Premier and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi who opened the meeting said in an address that the Ministry of Education which prepares school textbooks continually cooperates with national and international organisations including the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in order to implement the recommendations of the 1987 national educational conference which included the preparation of new curricula and buying new school textbooks. The ministry has already started producing the required textbooks for the requirements of modern education pioneered by Jordanian educationists working in cooperation with local and international organisations, said the minister.

Basic education, he said, is the foundation for the new generations and school textbooks serve as one tool in imparting education to the young, he said. Mr. Hindawi thanked UNESCO and other regional and international organisations for helping the Ministry of Education in Jordan in the process of implementing the 1987 educational resolutions.

The workshop which is organised by the Ministry of Education together with UNESCO is expected to discuss various aspects related to school textbooks for the basic stages and primary schools. The organisers said that the participants will be divided into working groups each discussing certain aspects of these textbooks.

UNESCO representative Habib Hajjar said that the workshop offers the participants a good opportunity to exchange views and expertise on basic education and school textbooks.

Dr. Ahmad Hiyasat Director of the Ministry of Education's curricula department reviewed the ministry's moves to develop school books and other components of the educational process in Jordan including the upgrading of school teachers.

Seminar talks data bases in libraries

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day seminar on the use of data bases in libraries in Jordan opened at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in Amman with the participation of 40 representatives of Jordanian private and public institutions.

The two-day meeting organised by the RSS in cooperation with the Jordan Library Association (JLA) and the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation is dedicated to discussing issues related to exchange of information through the National Information System to benefit public libraries.

The meeting was opened by Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz who underlined the importance of data banks in providing information to libraries among other institutions which, he said, contribute to the Jordan's socio-economic development.

The National Information System was established in 1987 in the Kingdom in cooperation with the RSS in order to help promote the work and services of the various institutions.

JLA President Yousef Qandeel reviewed the various activities of his association and the training of librarians.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Ensour to open new factories in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour will open Sunday at Al-Hassan Industrial City in Irbid several new factories. Dr. Ensour will also visit a number of existing factories at the city to be briefed on means of activating the industrial movement in Irbid.

Council of ministers approves bilateral cooperation deals

AMMAN (Petra) — The council of ministers Saturday approved a trade agreement with Lebanon which provides for expanding the exchange of industrial and agricultural products. The ministers also approved of a committee to conduct cooperation between the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and the General Electricity Corporation of Yemen. The committee, to be chaired by JEA Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafah, will hold its meeting with the Yemeni side in Sanaa next month to discuss cooperation in electricity. The council approved of the formation of a delegation from the Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) led by TCC Director Ahmad Nawawi to conduct talks with Yemeni officials on cooperation in telecommunication fields. The first meeting is to be held in Yemen also next month.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Ismail Fattah, Lisa Fattah and Mohammad Mohraddin at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- ★ Photography exhibition entitled "Characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of contemporary Swedish art at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "Funny Farm" at the American Centre — 5 p.m.

It's Been One Year Since We Turned It Around

OVER 100 PRIZES FOR NOVEMBER DRAW

PRIZES LIST:

- 1) AIR FRANCE
- 2) IBRAHIM & KHALID ABU-SHAQRA CO.
- 3) ABU-SHAKRA TRADING AGENCY
- 4) JORDAN CLOTHING CO.
- 5) PALESTINIAN TRADING CO.
- 6) MOUSA SAKLUJIAN TRD. CO.
- 7) ASTRA TRD. EST. FOR COMMERCIAL AGENCIES
- 8) TRANSMED
- 9) ZARA NATURAL DEAD SEA PRODUCTS
- 10) AL-SALASEL AL-DAHABIEH EST.
- 11) THE REGENCY PALACE HOTEL
- 12) HUAZI & GHOSHEH FOOD STUFFS CO.
- 13) ISSA MURAD & SONS CO.
- 14) FINE HYGIENIC PAPER CO.
- 15) SAUDI JORDAN TRAD. & INVEST. CO.
- 16) PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL
- 17) RAMADAN ORABI STORES
- 18) GEORGE M. KHOURY DRUG STORES
- 19) TIGER STORES
- 20) MUDIEB HADDAD & SONS CO.
- 21) SAFEWAY
- 22) ARAB SANITARY PAPER CONVERTING CO.
- 23) KHALAF OPTICS
- 24) AQUABA GULF HOTELS
- 25) SPINNEYS 1948 LIMITED
- 26) THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL CO. LTD
- 27) MOWAFFAQ ABDUL-FATTAH SADDER
- 28) MUNIR SUKHTIAN TRD. CO.
- 29) ASWAR AL-QUDS TRD. EST.
- 30) NAIM SHAHADEH & BROS. TRD. CO.
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Why the silence?

IN SPITE of all the diplomatic and economic efforts of the international community to curb Serbia's lust for more territories belonging to Bosnia and Croatia, Serbian forces continue their onslaught on what remained of these two countries. All past efforts to put in place an effective ceasefire in order to alleviate the sufferings of Bosnians and Croats went down the drain in view of the Serbs' determined plan to go ahead with their military strategy that aims at conquering territory and ethnic cleansing.

Attempts by the two co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference on former Yugoslavia, Mr. Cyrus Vance of the U.S. and Lord David Owen of Britain, to reestablish the rule of law, especially humanitarian law, in the former country, have also failed miserably. The sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council on Yugoslavia have not been potent enough to reduce Serbia's atrocities, crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Bosnians and the Croats. Even the latest decision of the Western European Union (WEU) defence group to implement a full naval blockade in the Adriatic Sea to tighten the economic noose on Serbia and Montenegro is not expected to frustrate their de facto annexation of Bosnian and Croatian territories.

There is an obvious reason why all past endeavours to put an end to Serbia's grave violation of humanitarian law and its persistent expansionist policy. The international community of nations, especially the West, has so far been hesitant, most probably unwilling, to take an effective and serious course of action. The kind of atrocities being committed daily by Serbian forces would have shocked the world into action. This time around, however, the world, including the so-called free and democratic states of the West, seems to have difficulty in reacting to such barbarism and instead has been manifesting the usual callous behaviour.

What is most intriguing though is the silence of the Muslim World in the face of the murder and torture of Bosnian Muslims and the reported abuse of their girls and women. How can one expect the West to rise up to the challenge posed by Serbian aggression and abominations when the Muslim World reaction's can be described as muted and subdued, at best.

Jordan has shown interest and concern for what is happening in the Balkan by dispatching forces to work with the U.N. peace keeping forces in former Yugoslavia. Yet there is need for a people's action commencing with the collection of food, clothing and medicines. Jordanians have always demonstrated their compassion and solidarity with their fellow Muslims. Government and non-governmental agencies may spearhead an effective reply to the woes and sufferings of Bosnians and Croats by taking bold initiatives on the Arab and Islamic levels. Silence in the face of brutality makes the world an accomplice in the heinous crimes being committed daily in that part of the world.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAI Arabic daily Saturday discussed Israel's manoeuvres at the peace negotiations which, it said, rendered the talks totally fruitless. In its latest claims, Israel said that it was the Palestinians who were obstructing a settlement, and the ruling Labour Party in Israel is accusing the Palestinian negotiators of causing the negotiating boat to sink, said the daily. The accusation, coming in the wake of the unsuccessful seventh round of negotiations in Washington, followed a similar accusation on the part of Israel against the Syrian side, said the daily. It said that Israel, which seeks no comprehensive peace with the Arabs, is intent on concluding separate deals with the Arab parties to the negotiations because it believes such strategy is bound to help the Jewish state achieve its goals. Israel is trying to find excuses anywhere and with any party to justify its intransigent position at the peace negotiations, and it is trying to shift the blame on others for lack of progress towards a lasting settlement, the paper added. It said that no one really knows what Israel has got up its sleeve for the coming eighth round, due to open in Washington on Dec. 7, but it is common knowledge to all that it is Israel which is obstructing peace, the paper continued. It said that without the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which form the basis for the current negotiations, no one expects any peace to prevail. The paper said it is Israel and not the Palestinians or the Syrians who are causing an abortion of the talks; and there is no way by which Israel can succeed in changing the picture without changing its own position.

A COLUMBIST in Al Dastour Saturday attacked the rulers of Kuwait for their drive to maintain the current embargo on Iraq and keep foreign forces on Kuwait territory. The Kuwaitis, who believe that the presence of foreign forces can provide them with protection against external threats, hope that by pursuing the current policies they will bring down the rule of Saddam Hussein, noted Taher Al Udwan. The writer said the Kuwaitis who caused the 30 nation aggression on Iraq and cost the Arab World \$614 billion, according to statistics published in the American press have failed to bring about a change in Iraq's strategy, let alone the downfall of the Iraqi president. Therefore, the repeated military exercises by foreign forces in Kuwait and Kuwait's efforts to foil Tareq Aziz's attempt to end the sanctions imposed on his country can by no means achieve the Kuwaiti rulers' goals, the writer said. The Iraqi people, who have suffered a great deal and who have offered huge sacrifices in the course of steadfastness and in safeguarding Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, can withstand the new conspiracies of the Kuwaiti regime, added the writer. He said it is rather more beneficial for the Kuwaitis to return to their senses and admit that they are the losers despite the false pretensions.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

A strong recovery of Jordan's economy

Several factors can claim the credit for the current economic take off in the Jordanian economy which started in mid-1991 and continued to accelerate since then. The present wave of economic boom, which is now in its 18th month, may continue for several more months before it starts to level off.

One of the aspects of this economic take off is the high growth in the second half of 1991, which was sufficient to make up for all the retreat and losses sustained during the first quarter of that year, due to the war, and to leave a net positive growth of one per cent. The growth in 1992 is expected to reach eleven per cent in constant prices, or eight per cent at factor cost, i.e., before adding indirect taxes. Such phenomenal growth was achieved while the inflation rate was kept below five per cent, thanks to the stable exchange rate of the dinar and the availability of idle productive resources, especially manpower.

The year 1992 was therefore the first year in a decade to achieve a rate of growth higher than the population growth. It was the first year since 1983 to witness a rise in the standard of living, instead of the usual decline, year after year, of the standard of living. The rate of unemployment was also miraculously reduced from the peak of 24 per cent, in mid-1991, to below 20 per cent now.

despite the return to Jordan from Kuwait of around twenty five thousand job seekers.

The leading engine for the current high growth is of course the construction boom, which is running at more than double the usual level in normal times. Construction is known not only to generate plenty of direct jobs in the course of its activities, but also to generate secondary jobs in other sectors of the economy. The factories producing cement, steel bars, wood, sanitary equipment and furniture, the quarrying and trucking, etc. are operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to cope with demand. The expansion in construction-related industry and services called for the employment of thousands of new labourers, which resulted in a substantial reduction in the unemployment stock, in spite of the influx of returnees on one hand, and the newcomers to the labour market on the other.

Construction was by no means the only sector responsible for heating up the activity in the market. Other factors were also instrumental. A lot of new small and medium-size investments and businesses are being started, as indicated by the number of new firms registered daily at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Tourism also recovered fully. As of this season — Autumn 1992 — tourism is back to its pre-Gulf crisis level, as indicated by the

high occupancy rates experienced by major hotels. If the price levels and turnover in the Amman stock exchange are a good indicator of the market activity, expectations and mood of business circles, the reading is very clear: both price turnover are at record highs.

Admittedly, some factors behind the current excellent performance of the economy are of temporary nature, such as the exceptional construction wave, which cannot go on at this level for long, the transfer of returnees' savings, which will be repeated every year, and the generous foreign aid, which will continue at the same level after the end of the Gulf crisis. Yet, there are other promising factors which will give Jordanian economy in the future another push forward. All these factors are: the success of peace negotiations or the existence of a peace process, the inevitable removal of the sanctions imposed by the outgoing President Bush against Iraqi people and the withering of the foreign indebted burden under terms and conditions that we can live with. The continued implementation of the economic adjustment programme is a guarantee that the economy will continue to move forward in the right direction, and in a favourable international environment.

Rights: The West should nag less and listen more

By Kishore Mahbubani

SINGAPORE — For the West, it is not enough for democracies to have regular, freely contested elections. They must be bills of democracies with strong bill of rights designed to protect members of minorities, and individuals from the majority. There must be freedom of the press and speech. In practice, democracies world over are measured by standards set either by the United States or by Western Europe.

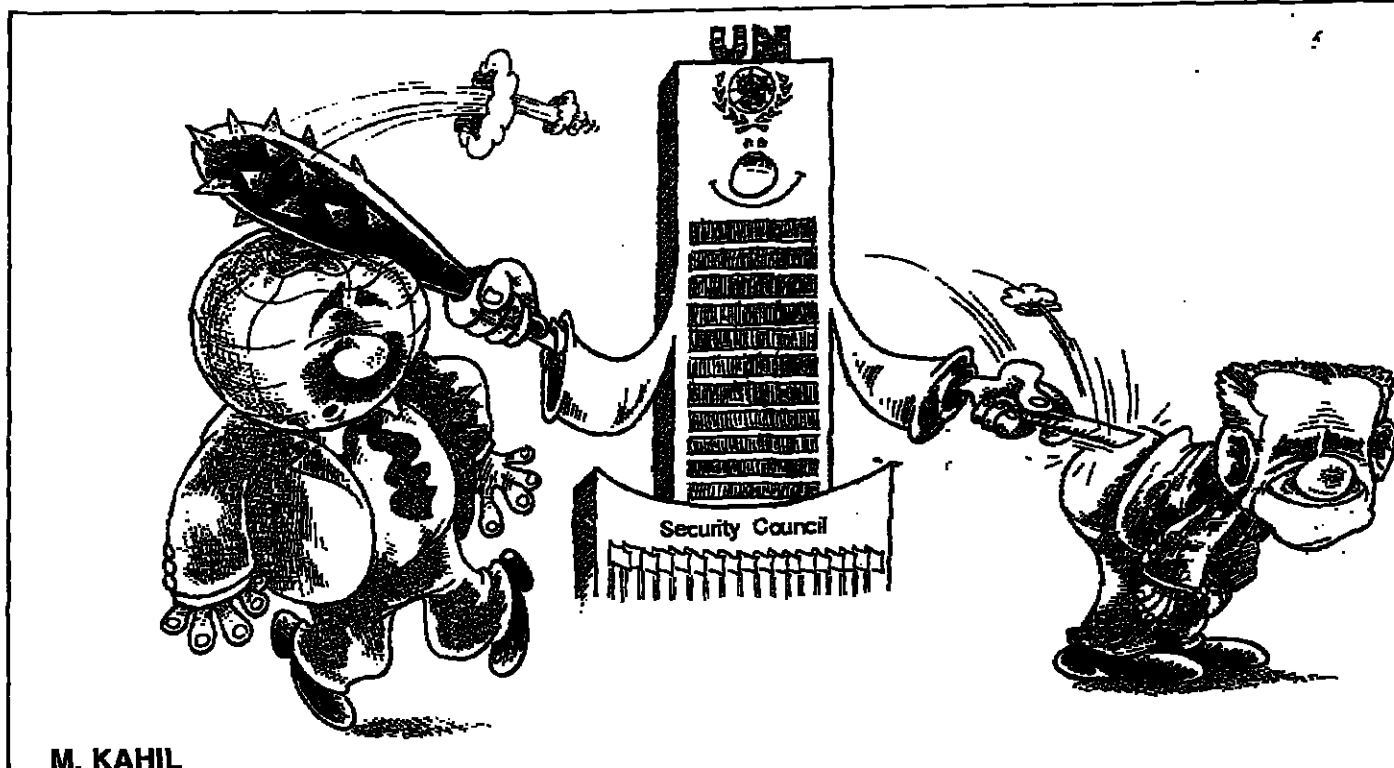
The emergence of democracy and human rights as prominent issues on the global agenda is clearly linked to the end of the cold war. The West saw its victory over the Soviet Union as the result of a superior ideology and social system. If the powerful Soviet bloc had capitulated in the face of western ideas and organisation, how could the rest of the world resist the tide?

The collapse of communism also persuaded the West that it had a moral duty to foster respect for democracy and human rights.

But the West does this inconsistently. It has criticised Burma for turning back from the democratic road, but it has remained largely silent on Algeria. In Peru, as in Algeria, there was a spectacular reversal in the trend towards democratisation. Peru was punished with sanctions. Algeria was not.

European governments calculated that sanctions would further destabilise a volatile situation and intensify the flow of Algerian refugees into France, Spain and Italy. While nominally condemning the coup in Algeria, most western governments quietly welcomed it as being in western interests.

Peru was further away from any western society than Algeria. So while sanctions would be equally destabilising, they were imposed.



M. KAHIL

Westerners surely should have asked: What kind of authoritarian government is President Alberto Fujimori imposing? Is he going to become another Ferdinand Marcos and enrich himself at his country's expense, or is he desperately trying to reverse course in a society under vicious attack by Marxist terrorists and on the verge of breakdown?

If current western policies had been in force in the 1950s and '60s, the dynamic economic growth and gradual democratisation of Taiwan and South Korea could have been cut off before they had a chance to develop, by the demand that authoritarian governments be dismantled.

This pattern of inconsistencies

and double standards devalues the merit of western human rights policies. Asians notice the selective application of moral principles.

Would the West be as tough on the regime in Peking if China were located, say, where Mexico is? Would the West be as sanguine about the prospects of millions of boat people sailing from China if the regime there broke down and chaos prevailed?

The Algerian experience introduces another complication. Democracies work all too well in bringing out the true social and cultural face of a society. In Algeria, the centuries-old Islamic heritage had been suppressed by secular and modern values intro-

duced by the post-colonial elite. That Islamic heritage is now surfacing, and it will probably surface in other Islamic societies that hold democratic elections. If governments elected by popular mandate impose Islamic laws that restrict some western notions of human rights, would the West respect their right to decide their own values and practices?

The post cold war euphoria that led to aggressive western promotion of human rights and democracy appears to be diminishing. The West is realising that the end of Communist governments has not necessarily led to better lives for the citizens of the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

Marshal Dmitri Yazov, former Soviet defense minister, told a western general: "Mark my words. When we lift our Soviet boots off the Soviet Central Asian countries there will be bloodshed and conflict."

Some western statesmen have begun to recognise that the West should be cautious in promoting rapid democratisation.

Helmut Schmidt, the former chancellor of West Germany, said recently that "perhaps the West must admit to itself that people living in firmly rooted traditions can be thoroughly happy even without the democratic structures that we Euro-Americans consider indispensable. Therefore we should not ask China to profess democracy, but we should insist on respect of the person, personal dignity and rights."

Governments of the Asian of South East Asian can agree that all members of the group — Brunei, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand — adhere to certain basic tenets of human rights.

There should be no slavery, arbitrary killings, appearances" or shooting innocent demonstrators. Rights should be upheld national as well as moral. Any society that is at odds best and brightest and them down when they debase peacefully, as happens Burma in 1988, is head trouble. None of the Asian countries want to be in a position that Burma is in: nation at odds with itself.

ASEAN members undertake a comprehensive view of the human rights issues propounded by the. Some we can agree to others we may have to disagree.

For example, Amnesty national condemns all of that allow capital punishment, including the United States; there is a countervailing merit: that the absence of punishment can lead to innocent lives being lost to criminal activities. Singapore and Malaysia, which have ended race riots in the past, the effect that an inflammatory racial speech can have. ASEAN can make better use of the West to be in discussing the complex of democracy and human rights. The West should admit to promotes these principles suits western interests. would permit a more honest dialogue between with Asia's sensitive area. Each side have something to learn from the other. — International Herald Tribune.

Palestinian police, the interim test

By Gershon Baskin

THE primary purpose of the interim period in an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians is to allow the two sides to disengage from decades of conflict and begin to develop trust.

From our perspective, this period is also supposed to take on the character of a test. If the Palestinians are successful in taking control of their lives, and if the level of violence decreases, then we can discuss further separation and territorial issues.

During the interim period, the Palestinians are supposed to take full control of their daily lives. They will run their own educational system, health care, taxation, housing, welfare, municipal affairs and even a small police force. It is certainly in our interest not to get involved in these internal Palestinian affairs.

We don't care, nor should we care about the internal civil affairs of the Palestinians. They should not even be an issue for negotiations.

One major question remains: Is the ability of the Palestinians to run their civil services a relevant test? The answer is clearly an emphatic no. If they provide good health care or bad health care; if the educational system produces scientists or dropouts — that is their problem.

The only relevant issue from our perspective is in the realm of internal security. Only when the Palestinians can prove they are capable of controlling their own population, that they can prevent hostile acts against their own regime and against us, will it be clear that we can make full peace.

The issue of internal security is not on the agenda for negotia-

tions. Our position is that during the entire period of the interim agreement, we will retain full control over all aspects of security.

The small Palestinian police force (about 1,000 men) will deal solely with matters of criminal law and order. They will give out traffic tickets and investigate robberies. They will not be in charge of riot or crowd control. They will have no responsibility for or ability to protect the Palestinian self-governing authority.

Israeli soldiers, Border Police and General Security Service agents will maintain the same high profile in the future as they have today.

There are 110,000 settlers and some 150 settlements for which the government must guarantee security. If there were no Israelis in the West Bank and Gaza, we could withdraw the troops, the Border Police and the GSS and tell the Palestinians: "Sink or swim."

But we sent the settlers there, and we must protect them. If Israel has to maintain the same military-security presence and profile in the West Bank and Gaza during the interim period, however, nothing will change.

Our security grip on the territories and on the lives of their residents is overwhelming. Road blocks, curfews, permits, identity cards, night searches and more are all part of the daily encounter between our security apparatus and the Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza. All these are necessary evils if we want to maintain control of the territories and protect Israel and

Israelis. We are in a Catch-22 situation. We want to disengage from the Palestinian population and increase our level of security. We want to test the Palestinians' ability to run their own affairs. The only test of relevance is that of internal security, but we can't decrease our security presence because we need to protect the settlers.

The Palestinians are also in a difficult position. Autonomy without control over security issues is a half-empty glass indeed. If, however, Palestinians took over internal security affairs, how would they cope with internal divisions which could threaten the existence of the Palestinian regime?

Would a Palestinian police force interrogate political opponents? Would a Palestinian authority institute administrative detention? Could a Palestinian regime hold political prisoners? Can the Palestinians create an effective and obedient chain of command?

Israeli and Palestinian security experts estimate that the Palestinians would need a police force numbering 18,000 to 20,000 people. There would have to be an effective and well-trained intelligence apparatus. There would have to be a liaison mechanism between Israeli authorities and the Palestinian force.

The only way that we could agree to the existence of such a force is if we retained control over the security of the settlers and the settlements and had the full cooperation of the Palestinian police. There is a possibility that our security presence could gra-

dually decline if the Palestinian police force were an effective one. A mutuality of security understandings could pave the way for future agreement on this issue.

It is our interest to see that matters of internal security are transferred to the Palestinians as soon as possible. When they have to prevent fundamentalists from attacking Israel or Israelis, we will be able to judge to what extent coexistence is possible.

Two fundamental principles must be accepted: transference of security responsibilities to the Palestinians will be gradual, and the process will begin in certain locations and not throughout the territories. The establishment of an internal security police force, its training and the creation of an effective chain of command will take three to five years. Gradually, it might be possible to turn over certain limited areas to Palestinian security control. If they succeed in one locale another area could be added.

Palestinian success in controlling the population and preventing violence would signal that agreement on broader issues is possible. Our failure to put the Palestinians to the test means that Palestinian autonomy will be an irrelevant exercise in a process which will not result in peaceful coexistence.

The writer is international director of the Israel/Palestine Centre for Research and Information, Jerusalem. The article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

LETTERS

We could contribute too

To the Editor:

I applaud Hind-Lara Mango's article "Children's festival cludes" (Jordan Times, Nov. 15, 1992) and the diverse issues raises.

I was bemused by the remark attributed to Wafa Qasab "all professionals were contacted by the Ministry of Culture participate in January."

What constitutes a professional in the eyes of the minister? Upon what set of norms were people presumed professional? I ask this question perhaps as a lone voice, but a voice belonging to one who has been writing and directing child drama for twenty years, as well as using Drama in Education as a method of teaching. Nine of these years I spent in Jordan.

Sadly, I missed the closing date for entry; I would have welcomed the chance to participate had I heard of the event between January and July!

Now, what was I doing to miss the summer closing date? I in Portugal representing Jordan at the first International Congress on Drama in Education and Theatre. Ironic, isn't it?

Let not the ministry shun those of us who are Jordanians by birth but by marriage; our passports carry the same crown as our hearts the same loyalty.

Our contributions to this society are unique and enriching. Lesser Jordanians are we, ignore not our gifts.

There may be more than one talented "foreign" Jordanian playwright out there, outside the theatre, looking in, waiting for their part or lead the way, like myself, not for glory or prizes, as we do in our daily working life: for the sake of our Jordan children.

Edwina A. Issa, Head of performing arts in theatre manager, New English School, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only on request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

Project promotes efficiency in Jordanian education

The following article is reprinted from the September-October issue of the Newsletter of the Commission of the European Communities in Jordan.

STAFF AT the Ministry of Education will be the focus of the new EC-funded Education Improvement Project for which an agreement was signed recently in Amman. The project is an integral part of the Ministry's Seventh Education Project, which is designed to improve the quality, relevance and cost efficiency of Jordan's education system.

Ireland's Higher Education for Development Cooperation (HEDCO), in association with the Netherlands, has just signed a consultancy contract for the project. Head of Technical Assistance at the Ministry of Education, Dr. Mohammad Atiyeh, says HEDCO worked successfully with the Ministry on the technical assistance element of their Fifth Education Project and he is happy to welcome them back to Jordan for the new project.

For HEDCO General Secret-

ary John Lynch the return to Jordan is also welcome. In addition to the Fifth Education Project, the organisation has also participated in the EC-funded Faculty of Engineering and Technology Project at Jordan University and the development of the Madaba Industrial School.

This experience has given HEDCO a good understanding of Jordan's education system and its needs. In at least one case, a consultant who was in Jordan for the Fifth Project will be returning at the specific request of the ministry.

Similarities

Mr. Lynch points out that there are also similarities between Ireland and Jordan, both in terms of society in general and the education system in particular, which helps the cooperation to run smoothly.

A small population, and one which still has strong ties to its rural roots and close personal relationships, is the starting point. In the educational sphere Ireland has been plagued by the same shortage of jobs that Jordan

now faces and has always been conscious that it is training many of its young people for the export market.

At the same time, the Irish education system has expanded rapidly over the past twenty years, especially in the further and higher technical education areas, managing to achieve high academic standards on modest development budgets. As many of those who developed the system are still working they are available to share their experience.

Dr. Atiyeh, who was in Ireland for training under the Fifth Project, says both the Irish and the Jordanian systems are British-oriented and it is easy to move from one to the other. He wasn't even worried by the Irish accents — Jordanians can adapt quickly to the accent, he says.

Technical assistance has been part of all the ministry's development projects which first began in 1972 in the wake of the influx of refugees from the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Since then their seven expansion programmes have all included a component to upgrade the quality of the system as well

as its size.

Overhaul

Dr. Atiyeh explains that the Seventh Project has a particular emphasis on the improvement of quality as a result of the November 1987 national conference on education. This called for a complete overhaul of the system to make it more relevant to Jordan's economic and social needs.

What it spelled out was Jordan's need for an education system that it could afford to maintain and one that would produce graduates able to find jobs in an increasingly competitive world.

The conference called for new approaches to introduce cost effective teacher upgrading at the primary and secondary level, to improve the quality and availability of instructional materials, the responsiveness of vocational training to Jordan's skilled manpower needs, the quality, cost effectiveness and maintenance of physical facilities, and to strengthen educational management and the measurement and evaluation aspects of the education system.

Training

Dr. Atiyeh says that over the next three years the new project will tackle all these areas through the provision of short term training for ministry staff in Europe

and of consultants to conduct in-service training in Jordan.

For the first phase training actions have already been identified for teaching, administrative and technical staff in areas ranging from education television and

animation techniques, to managers for audio-visual centres, nursing, dressmaking and weaving instructions, and procurement officers and quantity surveyors.

In the second phase consultants from Europe will conduct in-

service training in the areas of examinations, educational technology, vocational education, planning, development and educational research, school buildings, and the ministry's computer centre.

U.S. firms head for Vietnam in hope of new ties

By Kathleen Callio
Reuters

ANNOI — American companies are scrambling to visit Vietnam in the hope of securing a long-standing trade embargo against Hanoi. Recent progress in a bilateral trade agreement between the two nations has led to the lifting of the embargo. None of the companies in the United States, however, has been able to get a visa to enter the country. U.S. President George Bush may lift the embargo by January 20, but the U.S. Senate committee on the Foreign Relations, which has been holding hearings on the issue, has not yet reached a decision. The committee is expected to report to the Senate by the end of the year.

spect to the embargo," he said. Washington imposed the economic embargo on North Vietnam in 1964 and extended it to the south in 1975 when the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese army fell to the communist north.

U.S. oil companies hope Vietnam will delay its selection of a foreign partner to develop the Dai Hung (big bear) off-shore oil field long enough to allow them to bid.

Many other U.S. companies, eyeing Vietnamese prospects in telecommunications, banking, construction and other fields have been encouraged by Japan's resumption of development aid to Hanoi on November 6 after a 14-year suspension.

That signalled Japan would no longer back Washington's policy to deny Hanoi much-needed loans from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

"American businessmen" say they were also heartened by last week's easing of restrictions on

telephone links between the United States and Vietnam which they saw as another sign that sanctions could soon be lifted.

Three different American chambers of commerce have visited Vietnam in the past week, and growing numbers of U.S. businessmen have been checking into the 109-room Metropole, Hanoi's only luxury hotel, said Manager Ricardo Perran.

"We have had a lot of Americans, but we can't offer them all rooms because we're too small," Mr. Perran said.

"Quite a few principals (in the United States) are interested in looking at this market. This market is completely new to them," James Hsieh Fu Tien, manager of the U.S. Trade Office that opened in Hanoi in July, told Reuters.

Vietnam's Minister for Cooperation and Investment, Dau Ngoc Xuan said in Singapore last month that U.S. firms were queuing up to invest in his country.

"Hundreds of U.S. companies are preparing to enter Vietnam, planning investments of millions of dollars," he said.

While executives from France, Australia, South Korea, Taiwan and other non-communist countries are busy doing business in Vietnam, Washington allows Americans to visit but prohibits them from signing any contracts except those meeting humanita-

rian needs.

U.S. citizens are not permitted to write cheques in Vietnam on American banks or use U.S. credit cards, a point of growing frustration for credit card giant, American Express.

"We've got a lot of customers coming to Vietnam and we want to serve them," Scott Armstrong, vice president and general manager of American Express travel related services for Thailand, said in Hanoi.

Some American businessmen feared locals would be hostile because of the Vietnam war but were pleasantly surprised to find the opposite was true.

"I came here thinking negotiations would be difficult and protracted, yet I find them (the Vietnamese) open, friendly and innovative," said Michael Powell of Powell's Books of Portland, Oregon, who sold a container of 20,000 books to a state-run store in Ho Chi Minh city this year.

That was the first U.S. commercial shipment to Vietnam since the war ended in 1975. The embargo does not cover the sale of books or other information materials.

Gary Goforth, president of a telephone company in Costa Mesa, California, said: "The Vietnamese really want to do business with people in the United States. I have yet to meet a Vietnamese who didn't do everything to extend himself."

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Rabin criticises military leaks leading to hysteria

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Friday slammed the biggest and most influential Israeli newspaper for contributing to hysteria following a shooting accident that killed five soldiers and wounded others. Rabin warned senior officers that they would not hesitate to use a lie to determine the source of leaked information to the media and to politicians. The missile that mistakenly hit an elite military unit on Nov. 5 has caused an uproar in Israel, where there is universal grief and long time reserve duty.

The issue has made front-page headlines almost daily. The debate has centred on the issue of responsibility and has sparked blame-calling within the army command.

Left-wing politicians in the government have alleged an army cover-up to protect senior generals. "There is full justification for criticism of the army, but not hysteria," Mr. Rabin said on Israel Television. "Today it is on the verge of hysteria, on the basis of information that is not credible and that is inaccurate."

During his successful election campaign, Mr. Clinton staked out a strong pro-Israel position. He also promised a get-tough policy on Syria and its role in Lebanon.

However, since his election, the president-elect has pledged a large measure of continuity in Middle East policy and expressed determination to push ahead strongly with the peace process. In the last round of talks, several parties appeared to hold back any substantive movement until the Clinton team takes over next Jan. 20.

Jordan presents Israel

(Continued from page 1)

FLP) and the radical wing of a Democratic Front for the liberation of Palestine (DFLP), boycotting the meeting. Syria's chief Mideast negotiator also said his country would consider its participation in peace talks with Israel if there is no progress in the first four months of the incoming Clinton administration.

Chief Palestinian delegate to talks has earlier threatened to pull out of the peace process if Clinton did not succeed in breaking the current deadlock.

Three or four months after the arrival of the new president to the White House, I think the peace process is continuing without progress, then it would be time to consider the whole thing," said Jordanian negotiator Mouwafak Al-Hajj.

Palestinian delegate Haider Abdul Shafi said: "Certainly if we don't get anywhere, and especially after the inauguration of an American administration, they have to evaluate the situation and see whether it is any

more profitable to continue with this peace process." He called on the United States to put pressure on Israel to make concessions, saying it was the only way to rescue the talks from failure.

"If Israel maintains this position, certainly we are going to stay in deadlock and that means that the peace process is going to break," said Dr. Abdul Shafi. "What is required now for the sponsors to do what it is supposed to do. Some pressure should be exercised on Israel."

During his successful election campaign, Mr. Clinton staked out a strong pro-Israel position. He also promised a get-tough policy on Syria and its role in Lebanon.

However, since his election, the president-elect has pledged a large measure of continuity in Middle East policy and expressed determination to push ahead strongly with the peace process. In the last round of talks, several parties appeared to hold back any substantive movement until the Clinton team takes over next Jan. 20.

Bhutto to begin march

(Continued from page 1)

liament house for a fourth day. Bhutto is calling for the removal of a government she accuses of corruption and coming to power through rigged elections in 1990.

Ms. Bhutto offered on Thursday to halt her long march on Islamabad if the government allows fresh elections. Authorities have arrested thousands of opposition activists and the country in police

sweeps to prevent the march. In Rawalpindi's Adyala jail alone, more than 1,000 people have been detained for 30 days for disrupting public order, the prison chief said. He said they were not allowed visitors.

The government says 1,621 people have been arrested nationwide. Mr. Sharif this month marked the second anniversary of his government, which has a solid majority in parliament.

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Sudden-death shoot-out may feature in World Cup

SYDNEY (R) — FIFA's experimental sudden-death shoot-out plans for eliminating sterile draws from international soccer may be introduced at the 1994 World Cup if successful at next year's World Youth Championship in Australia.

The International Football Federation hopes sudden death, in which the first team to score in the usual 30-minute extra time period wins, will encourage attacking tactics from coaches otherwise tempted to play for a penalty shoot-out.

FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter said in Sydney: "This (rule) will invite the coaches when going into extra time to try to win the match and not to go for penalty kicks so that they are not blamed for any defeat."

Turkey were one of the first sides to benefit from the new rule, which was tested by the European Soccer Union (UEFA) at this year's European Youth Championship finals. Turkey

beat Portugal in the final with a sudden-death goal after 10 minutes of extra-time.

Under the experimental rules, which FIFA President Joao Havelange announced Tuesday would be introduced at a world tournament for the first time, knockout stage matches level at the end of extra time are still decided on penalties.

Guido Tognoni, FIFA's public relations officer, said: "We still have the feeling that the penalty shoot-out is part of the game. World football is used to it, but we want to try to play the game more offensively."

"The under-20 World Youth Championship is the second most important tournament and as we would not want to experiment in the World Cup, this is the ideal place to witness this test."

Tognoni said if the experiment was successful it would be considered for the World Cup in the United States.

German Track Federation stands by Krabbe suspension

DIERHAGEN, Germany (AP) — The German Track Federation decided Friday to follow international rules requiring a four-year suspension for world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe because she had taken a banned drug.

However, while saying its hands were tied regarding the four-year suspension rule, the track federation said it would apply to the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to have Krabbe's ban dropped by the end of 1993.

The German federation said such a move would be in compliance with basic rights in Germany, which normally do not apply the highest penalty in first offense cases.

Meanwhile in London, IAAF spokeswoman Jayne Pearce, commenting on news of the German decision said "we are pleased that the IAAF rules have been upheld and that the penalty for this drug, clenbuterol, is four years. We were concerned that it would be reduced to two years or even less."

If even the ban ended in December 1993, that would mean Krabbe would not be able to defend the 100 and 200 metre world titles she won in Tokyo last year. Next year the World Championships are staged in Stuttgart, Germany.

Krabbe and two other German

women runners had admitted taking the drug clenbuterol but said they did not know it was banned.

Some experts have questioned whether the drug has the muscle-building effects of banned anabolic steroids. But the world governing body for track and field, the International Amateur Athletic Federation, upheld the ban on clenbuterol in a decision Nov. 17 and said violators should be suspended for four years.

Krabbe, 22 said in a German television interview before Friday's ruling she hoped to be treated fairly and get at most a two-year ban.

But the German federation announced after a meeting of its leadership in Dierhagen that it was bound by IAAF rules to ban Krabbe, Grit Breuer and Manuela Berr for four years. The three runners trained together with the Neubrandenburg Track Club. The ruling can be appealed to the federation's legal committee, which lifted an earlier suspension of Krabbe, Breuer and Silke Moeller. They had been accused of manipulating urine samples that were to be tested for drug abuse.

Krabbe did not compete in the Barcelona Olympics, but during the summer games she tested positively for clenbuterol and again was suspended.

Courier overcomes Sampras to reach final

FRANKFURT (Agencies) — World No. 1 Jim Courier took revenge on defending champion Pete Sampras to reach the final of the ATP World Championship Saturday.

Courier, recovering from a poor start in the lucrative tournament, needed two tie breaks to overcome Sampras 7-6 7-6 in a re-run of last year's final.

Courier will meet either local favorite Boris Becker or hard-hitting Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia in Sunday's final.

World number three Sampras, who had won all three of his round robin matches, did not give his opponent a single break point in a tense first set.

But Courier underlined his determination by saving two set points with two aces at 4-5 to force a tie break which he took 7-5.

He went on to take Sampras's serve early in the second set, but the holder fought back to break Courier thanks to some blistering returns and leveled at 3-3.

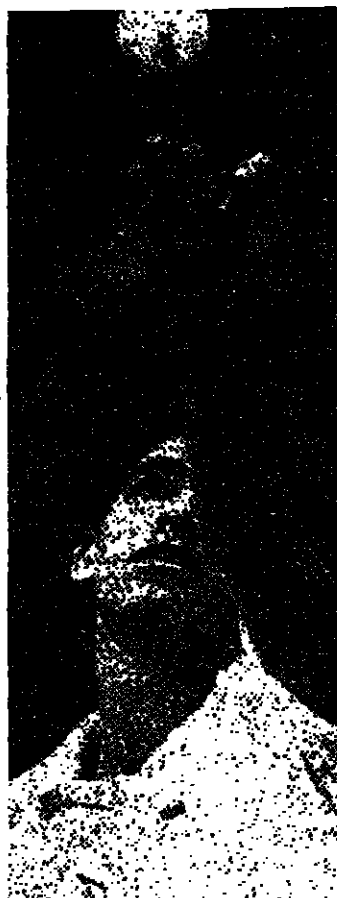
However, Sampras, struggling to maintain his usually efficient first serve, had to yield as impressive Courier fired 17 aces.

Sampras, who had beaten Courier six times in seven encounters, made 23 unforced errors, the last one a forehand into the net on match point, to give Courier the tie break 7-4.

"I just went out there and whacked the ball," said Courier, who had struggled to beat Dutchman Richard Krajicek in his opening match before failing to Ivanisevic in straight sets.

"I hit the ball solid and served pretty well. I had a difficult start but I'm playing better."

Courier is certain to retain his number one spot after Stefan



Pete Sampras



Jim Courier

Edberg failed to qualify for the semifinals of the year-end event featuring the world's top eight players.

"It wasn't bothering me too much but it's nice," said Courier, who is the first American to finish the year as number one since John McEnroe in 1984.

Courier, the only player to win

two Grand Slam titles this season — the Australian and the French Open — became No. 1 on Feb. 10 and held it for six weeks, before Edberg regained it.

The American took the top spot again on April 13, held it for 22 weeks, and regained it from Edberg again Sept. 14.

Courier shares the lead on the tour with Sampras at five tournament victories this season.

Edberg said Courier deserved to finish the year as No. 1 because he was the only player to win two Grand Slam titles.

"Looking back, he has been the best player," Edberg said.

Olympic champion Popov in sprint spree

ESPOO, Finland (R) — Double Olympic champion Alexander Popov, who dethroned American hero Matt Biondi at the Barcelona Games, puts his explosive power to the test at the European sprint swimming championships this weekend.

Popov, who captured Biondi's Olympic 50 and 100 metres freestyle titles, defends the 50 freestyle crown he won at the inaugural clash of the continent's sprint specialists in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, last December.

Popov and his Russian team mates are the strongest all-round force in the men's events, while Germany should dominate the women's races as they did on home territory last time.

Vasily Ivanov defends his 50 breaststroke title against compatriot Dmitry Volkov, who holds the world best time for the event, while European long-course gold medalist Vladislav Kulikov contests the butterfly and Gennadi Prigoda chases Popov in the freestyle.

They all swim for Russia but several of their former team



Alexander Popov

mates from the old Soviet Union and the short-lived era of the Commonwealth of Independent States now compete for rival

countries. Fourteen-year-old Franziska van Almsick, who won four medals in the 50-metre Olympic pool

in Barcelona, showed her talent was equally adapted to sprinting in 25-metre pools when she set a world short-course record for the 50 freestyle earlier this month.

She lines up for Germany with three defending champions — Simone Oygus (freestyle), Sandra Voelker (backstroke) and Peggy Hartung (breaststroke) — in a squad which let only two of the seven month's titles escape its clutches in Gelsenkirchen.

Inge de Bruijn of the Netherlands and Louise Karlsson of Sweden — the two women who prevented a German sweep — respectively defended their butterfly and individual medley titles.

The most notable absenteees are Hungary, who — with Krisztina Egerszegi and Tamas Darnyi outstanding — shone in the summer sunshine of Barcelona but are skipping the sprint championships for the second year.

"Last year we did not participate because we were preparing for the Olympic Games," Hungarian Swimming Federation Vice-President Peter Hauer said. "This year our swimmers deserved a break to rest after the games."

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Best Arab sportsmen to be chosen

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Sports Department of the British Broadcasting Corporation's Arabic Service has invited Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein and Minister of Youth Saleh Ibrahim to Cairo to attend the prize-giving ceremony for the best Arab athletes of the year. Hassiba Boulmerka, who won the 1,500 metre gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics, has been chosen as best sportsman, while the best sportsman award is still contested by Khaled Skah and Rashid Basir of Morocco, Noureddin Morceli of Algeria, and Mohammad Suleiman of Qatar.

Knee problems put NBA centre on injured list

RICHFIELD, Ohio (AP) — The Cleveland Cavaliers placed centre Brad Daugherty on the injured list because of tendinitis and bursitis in his left knee. To replace Daugherty, the Cavaliers activated rookie centre Jay Gaudin, who started the season on the injured list while he continued knee rehabilitation. By NBA rules, Daugherty must sit out at least five more games. He flew back to Cleveland after missing games in Portland and Sacramento, both losses. He also sat out the final 27 minutes of their overtime win at Golden State Thursday.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

THE KING IS DEAD

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 8 2
♥ 8 4
♦ A Q 10 4
♣ J 6 4

WEST
♠ K Q 10 6 4
♥ A J 3
♦ K 7 6 5
♣ K

EAST
♠ 9 7 5
♥ K 10 6 5 2
♦ 9 8 3
♣ 9 3

SOUTH
♠ 3
♥ Q 9 7
♦ J 2
♣ A Q 10 8 7 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass 1 ♠ Pass Pass
2 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Sometimes, all the salient features of a hand can be determined even before you play to the first trick. Cover up the East-West cards and decide whether you can equal South's performance at a contract of five clubs after the lead of the king of spades.

South did not feel the quality of the club suit quite merited a vulner-

able three-club preempt. However, when North showed a good club raise with the spade cue-bid, South jumped in clubs and North elected to raise to game because of the diamond honors behind the bidder.

West led the king of spades and the hand was soon over. Declarer won the first trick in dummy with the ace, led the jack of clubs and, when East followed low, shot up with the ace to fall the king. With the king of diamonds outside, declarer lost only two heart tricks.

No, South was not a pecker. Neither was declarer a disciple of The Rabbit, who formulated the rule: "When the king is singleton, play the ace." Declarer had good reason for spurning the percentage play of the club finesse in favor of the drop. Had West held both the ace and king of hearts, the defender almost certainly would have selected a high heart as the opening lead rather than the king of spades from a holding headed by K Q 10 at best. And since East did not respond to West's opening bid, that defender could not hold the king of clubs in addition to a high heart. Ergo: West held the king of clubs, and the only chance for the contract was to find it singleton.

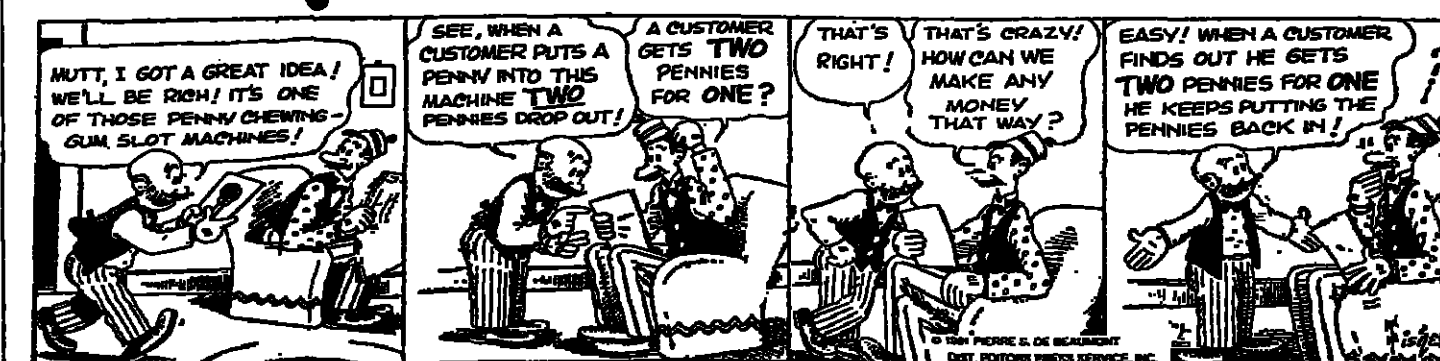
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Four

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An ideal day to use your boundless energy to best advantage in your own interests and to avoid wasting your time on projects and personalities that don't seem to be proving worthwhile.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Try to make any trips or visits early in the day and get them behind you before some unexpected situation arises causing you a definite change in plans.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can think out better arrangements whereby you have repairs and improvements made to whatever your property and possessions, so be alert to these.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Consider well what your personal wants and needs are early in the day and start the action towards gaining them even though there are unavoidable interruptions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are restless to make some changes of those that keep through your consciousness for they are good for you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your own intimate aims should take precedence early in the day. Even though some revisions in plans may be necessary, stick to original purposes.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get out early in the day to

interests that you like to with and later you can see activities by which to occupy time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to 22) You need a fresh view and you should awake with plan to carry through inspiration that then come later do other things.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to 22) Get up early and do things that you and you want like to do the most, you find equally interesting other directions.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 to 22) This is the day to let a logical mind see what you feel progress should consist, forces in new a plan.

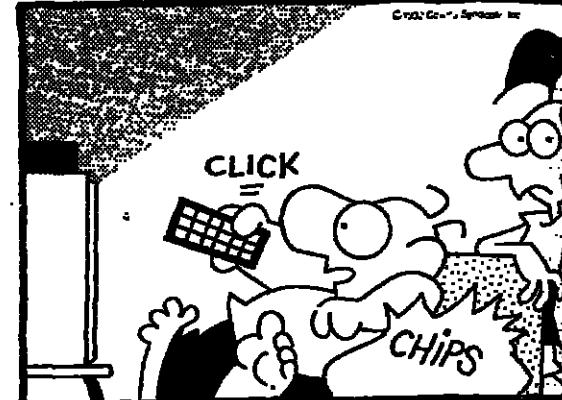
CAPRICORN: (December 23 to 22) You can engage activities which bring you of an accomplishing as don't call it work but enjoy thoroughly.

AQUARIUS: (January 23 to 22) Take some time or indulge in the recreations entertainments that attract that a day gives you time use of your time.

PISCES: (February 23 to 22) A happy time at home your family early in the day be most gratifying even late you will have to ad-difference of opinion.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Har



"Our marriage counselor said we should do something outrageous of a week. So, let's watch Channel 7 instead of Channel 7!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CYZAR

KARAP

GLUTLE

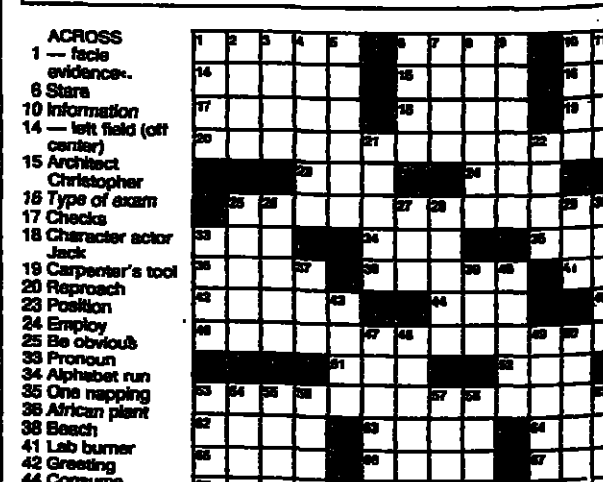
RISMEY

Print answer here: "OOOOO-C"

Yesterday's Jumbles: ACUTE SAUTE JAGUAR DAHLIA

Answer: What they did when he claimed to be the world's greatest comedian — JUST LAUGHED AT HIM

THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth Witts



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Across

1 Face

6 Stars

10 Information

14 Left field (off center)

15 Architect

16 Type of exam

17 Clue

18 Character actor

19 Carpenter's tool

20 Reproach

23 Position

24 Employ

25 Se obscure

33 Pronoun

34 Alphabet run

35 One napping

38 African plant

39 Beach

41 Lab burner

42 Greeting

44 Courtesy

45 Curve

46 Hebut

51 One-sided

52 Brit. mil. branch

53 Mock

54 Soap composer

55 18-wheeler

56 Wrote a secret message

58 Keep a — on (control)

59 Common abbr.

60 "Kiss Me"

68 Tender

70 Madison Ave. workers

DOWN

1 Neil

2 John Goodman role

3 Roman road

4 Southern lullaby

5 Solution

6 Dancer Verdon

7 Guitare

8 — gallery

9 Involve deeply

10 Remove one's hat

11 Opera song

12 Body powder

13 Out of the wind

21 Newspaper articles

22 Germ

25 Metrics, of court tests

26 Folded creature

27 One — million

28 Musical group

29 Enemy

30 Mountains, e.g.

31 Bedtime

32 Sound of laughter

37 Guido's role

38 Movie code

40 Cubic meter

43 Colorful fish

47 Spring flowers

48 " — Five" (movie)

49 Band of color

50 Furnish

53 Spies

54 Tract

55 Flood amount

56 A Heppman

57 A Bradley

58 Shade

59 Spies

60 Surrender

61 Paradise

Economy

Philippine business presses for more reforms

MANILA (R) — The Philippines should accelerate privatisation, boost exports, build infrastructure and develop the countryside to sustain growth and meet increased competition, business leaders urged Friday.

At the close of a three-day conference, the business community renewed support for President Fidel Ramos' economic stabilisation measures but said more needed to be done.

"The economy is on the right track. We must not lose this momentum. We must work hard to transform these initial gains into more tangible benefits vital to growth," said Agustin Bengzon, chairman of the Philippine Business Conference.

In a paper submitted to President Ramos, businessmen pressed for an end to a power crisis

"wreaking havoc on the economy."

Manila and many parts of the main island of Luzon experience daily power blackouts lasting four hours.

"Though it is imperative for government to curb spending, it should not postpone its investments in infrastructure facilities which are crucial to the economic development process," the paper said.

Similar power cuts earlier this year were blamed for slashing economic growth to less than 0.5 per cent and production losses running to billions of pesos.

The paper called for fiscal discipline to ease the budget deficit by removing subsidies and tax exemptions of state firms. Efforts

to sell of government assets should be intensified.

To accelerate development of the countryside, the government should ensure cheap credit and encourage industry to relocate to rural areas through fiscal incentives, it said.

Businessmen also called for measures to cushion the impact of a strong peso on exporters and avert "the collapse of the export sector."

"While the market system cannot be made to function strictly under the existing situation, the central bank has to draw the line on when the government should begin and end its intervention in the market," it said.

Officials have ruled out an outright peso devaluation, but Presi-

dent Ramos told the conference was working to lower interest rates and inflation to help exporters.

"We believe this is a temporary travail. Liberalisation shall soon enough produce its promised rewards in terms of more stable and favourable exchange rates for our exports," he said.

The Philippine government promised the business community Thursday it had taken definitive steps to end the country's crippling power crisis and tackle barriers to growth.

Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario told the Philippine Business Conference the country was ready to shift to a higher growth path and challenged private business to do its share to help the country's economic recovery.

"Shake off your wait-and-see attitude. Take the investment plunge now," he urged.

Mencio Carlos, vice-president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said industry was also suffering from high interest rates, an expensive peso and threats to the safety of the Filipino-Chinese business community.

Defin Lazaro, head of the government's energy coordinating committee, promised accelerated power projects which should bring adequate reserves by next September.

"From 1993 to 1996, if projects come in on time, capacity will keep pace with demand," he said.

But he told reporters later the government still needed to find an extra \$2.2 billion to build enough power stations.

Vice-president and chief crime-buster Joseph Estrada said a wave of kidnapping, mostly directed against wealthy Filipino-Chinese, was far from solved but incidents were on the wane.

"Within three to six months, the kidnapping for ransom will be trimmed down to manageable levels," he promised the forum.

EC commissioner predicts 11 per cent unemployment

BRUSSELS (R) — More than one in 10 people in the European Community (EC) could be out of work by the end of next year as the recession bites deeper into economic growth, EC Economic Affairs Commissioner Hennig Christoffersen has said.

"I expect a growth rate next year between one and 1.5 per cent. This implies a continuous rise in unemployment which could well reach a level of 11 per cent," he told a meeting of Belgian bankers and businessmen.

Mr. Christoffersen added that in some of the 12 member states the figure could rise as high as 20 per cent.

Figures released by the commission last week put average unemployment in September at 9.6 per cent, compared with nine per cent in September 1991.

Average unemployment in the Community in the whole of 1991 was 8.8 per cent.

Mr. Christoffersen told reporters recently that he expected economic issues to be at the heart of the Community's next meeting in Edinburgh in December.

His comments followed widespread press criticism that the last summit in Birmingham did not tackle the economic problems underlying the current malaise in the Community.

Mr. Christoffersen said people were increasingly anxious throughout the EC, not just in Britain, which has been shocked by government plans to shut many of the country's coal mines.

"Everywhere growth has slowed down and unemployment is going up," he said. "We have to address it. I think that is what

people will expect from us."

Mr. Christoffersen said prospects for growth were good.

"I expect to present in a few weeks' time our growth forecast for 1993 and they won't be very encouraging, to put it mildly," he said.

He gave no details but said Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development last month scaled back its forecast for European growth next year to just 1.5 per cent.

Big differences in economic conditions within the Community were one of the causes of the September currency turmoil, Mr. Christoffersen said. "It's not just a monetary phenomenon."

Informal Asia-Pacific trade bloc emerging

NEW DELHI (R) — An informal Asia-Pacific trade bloc is emerging as countries in the region liberalise their economies and expand trade among themselves, an international economist has said.

"Asia-Pacific is forming its own trade bloc as a spontaneous development even in the absence of a formal political arrangement," Andrew Stoekel, director of the Centre for International Economics in Canberra, told a conference on Asia-Pacific trade.

"Most Asia-Pacific economies are liberalising, leading to a large expansion of intra-Asian trade, just as in Europe and America. These trade blocs are good because they expand trade for everybody — provided they don't raise trade barriers and tariffs," he told the conference organised by the Confederation of Asia-

Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI).

If the Asia-Pacific region continued to liberalise trade, then "it captures most of the economic gain," he said.

"The 1990s will certainly see a tougher trade environment outside the Asia-Pacific region," Mr. Stoekel said. "Most of the opportunities will be in Asia-Pacific itself."

Fifteen countries, including the United States and Canada, formed an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group in 1989 as a discussion forum.

The group, however, has not established preferential trade pacts like the European Community or the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Indian Commerce Ministry Secretary A.V. Ganesan told the conference that New Delhi had a strong interest in joining APEC.

"On more than one occasion we have expressed our interest in being an active participant in APEC," he said, adding that India had yet to formally apply for membership.

Mr. Ganesan expressed concern at the trade friction between the United States and the European Community, which has stalled the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"We find it inopportune to precisely at a time when we are liberalising our trade regime, industrialised world is showing signs of protectionism," he said.

India is worried that if the Uruguay Round is scuttled, it could delay plans to include textiles in GATT's multilateral trade arrangements.

Textiles constitute around 10 per cent of India's exports.

Islamic bank to aid least developed members

NICOSIA (R) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will set up a \$100 million fund to assist "least developed" member states, the Iranian news agency IRNA has said.

The IDB is the development arm of the 47-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). It offers members and Muslim minorities in other countries long-term soft loans to finance development projects and encourage inter-Islamic trade.

IRNA said Albania would join the IDB once its membership application is approved by an OIC foreign ministers' meeting in Jeddah on Dec. 1.

The IDB said recently it had approved financing for projects worth \$1.33 billion in the 1991-92 fiscal year, a 48 per cent rise over the previous year.

Economic blocs spell danger for Asia

MANILA (R) — The rise of economic blocs in the world could spell danger for Asian economies that have based their spectacular growth on foreign investment and exports, Philippine Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo has said.

The European Community's creation of a single market from January and a free trade pact between the United States, Canada and Mexico could divert trade and investment from South East Asian nations, he told a business conference.

"The trade diversion and investment diversion effects, immediate and over the long term,

produced by the creation of major trade blocs cannot but be seriously regarded by ASEAN," he pointed out.

Recent studies showed 12 per cent of trade between the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and North America and Europe would be diverted by the single European market and the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA).

Investment flows into Mexico and southern Europe were already growing spectacularly, Mr. Romulo said, and ASEAN members Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei and the Philippines could be the losers.

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Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	NEW YORK CLOSE
	Nov. 19, 1992	Nov. 20, 1992
Sterling Pound	1.5385	1.5150
Deutsche Mark	1.5715	1.5055
Swiss Franc	1.5175	1.4485
French Franc	1.5260	1.4225
Japanese Yen	123.35	124.58
European Currency Unit	1.5435**	1.5212***

***EUROPEAN OPENING AT 8.00a.m. GMT

EURO CURRENCY INTEREST RATE

Currency	11/11/92	11/11/92	11/11/92	11/11/92
U.S. Dollar	3.02	3.75	3.75	4.06
Sterling Pound	7.00	7.00	6.81	6.58
Deutsche Mark	6.68	6.68	6.51	7.62
Swiss Franc	6.12	6.37	6.12	5.93
French Franc	9.76	9.44	9.37	6.75
Japanese Yen	3.81	3.75	3.68	5.02
European Currency Unit	10.12	10.06	9.62	9.00

Interbank, 11/11/92

PRECIOUS METALS

Gold 335.90 6.60 Silver 3.78 .080

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 21/11/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.689	0.691
Sterling Pound	1.0403	1.0455
Deutsche Mark	0.4255	0.4306
Swiss Franc	0.4756	0.4780
French Franc	0.1270	0.1276
Japanese Yen	0.5535	0.5565
Dutch Guilder	0.3811	0.3836
Swedish Krona	0.1028	0.1033
Italian Lira	0.0497	0.0499
Belgian Franc	0.02082	0.02092

Per 100

Other Currencies

Date: 21/11/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8050	1.8200
Lebanese Lira	0.03535	0.03635
Saudi Riyal	0.1835	0.1845
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2900	2.3000
Qatari Riyal	0.1867	0.1878
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7600	1.7720
UAE Dirham	0.3335	0.3375
Greek Drachma	0.3335	0.3375
Cypriot Pound	1.4620	1.4820

Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	11/11/92	Close	18/11/92	Close
All-Share	157.60		159.25	
Banking Sector	117.63		117.92	
Insurance Sector	172.52		176.02	
Industry Sector	208.86		212.69	
Services Sector	225.26		227.24	

December 31, 1990 - 100

Kuwait to privatise telecommunications

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait plans to privatise its telecommunications services, a communications ministry source has said.

He said a company would be established, possibly within six months, which could offer shares and begin functioning in 1994.

The company, to be called the Kuwait Telecommunications Company, would take control of local and international phone calls, fax and telex services from the communications ministry.

It would have a capital of 150 million dinars (\$520 million) initially 51 per cent owned by the public and 49 per cent by the government, which could then sell up to 25 per cent to foreign investors, the source said.

Establishment of the company would be a major step in the government's programme to privatise public services. It has previously announced the sale of 77 petrol stations.

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN FINANCIAL BANK	4,540	4,710	4,710
JORDAN FINANCIAL BANK	12,280	12,110	12,280
THE HOUSING BANK	60,680	5,780	5,450
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	1,090	1,090	1,150
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	11,130	1,090	1,150
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	24,110	1,090	1,150
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	44,134	1,090	1,150
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	133,651	4,000	4,000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	12,151	1,090	1,150
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
BUSINESS BANK	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
BANK ELMAL SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR NEW	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
BANK OF JORDAN	40,710	1,090	1,150
ARAB BANK	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN INSURANCE	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONCORD HOTELS	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
MACHINERY EQUIP., REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
PETRA REPAIRING & EQUIPMENT LEASING	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN GOLF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN KOWIT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN DAILY	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
ARAB CHEMICAL DEVELOPMENTS INDUSTRIES	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
BAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
THE JORDAN WOODS MILL	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN PROPERTIES WINE	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN TANNING	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
ARAB CENTER FOR FURN. & CLOTHES	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
ALADON INDUSTRIES	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
RAJIA INDUSTRIES	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
MOLAN INDUSTRIES	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACH/JINCO	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
SPINNING & WEAVING	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JACO	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN POCCOLM INDUSTRIES	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1,119,644	1,090	1,150
GRAND TOTAL	12,066,124		

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Fears for refugees as extra troops defend Bosnian city

SARAJEVO (R) — Croat and Muslim forces have thrown 6,000 extra troops into the defence of Travnik to try to prevent the strategic Bosnian town being overwhelmed by a Serb offensive, United Nations peacekeeping sources said Saturday.

Intense shelling forced residents to take refuge in basements overnight and humanitarian aid officials voiced alarm about a potential tragedy for thousands of refugees congregated around Travnik.

"They have nowhere else to go," one senior relief official said. "Croatia's capacity to take refugees is exhausted. If the worst comes to the worst, these people have no future."

The flood of refugees of all ages driven from other war zones has swollen Travnik's population to around 70,000 people, many of them starving in the open in freezing temperatures.

The Bosnian Serb army launched its artillery assault Friday with the apparent aim of taking the town and opening a new corridor to Sarajevo.

Travnik, an historic town with many buildings dating from Turkish rule, is only 80 kilometres west of the Bosnian capital which has been under Serb siege for seven months.

Its capture would put British U.N. troops, using nearby Vitez as a base for relief operations in central Bosnia, within easy range of Serb field guns.

The Serbs claimed they had captured the villages of Sescice and Potkraj near Travnik and laid

a heavy artillery barrage on its suburb of Turbe.

Croat and Muslim commanders, who admit Travnik will fall if Turbe is captured, have dug a secondary line of defence nearer the town during the last few days.

The U.N. sources said the fighting quality of the extra 6,000 men now committed to defending Turbe and Travnik was not known but their chances of success were not rated high.

"We expect Turbe to fall early next week," said Major Andrew Vitez, a British officer in Vitez where the bombardment could be clearly heard.

British soldiers escorting a U.N. aid convoy from Vitez to Tuzla Saturday were equipped with protective suits and gas masks after town officials confirmed that a chlorine gas plant was leaking after being hit by shelling.

Tuzla's mayor denied the leak was dangerous but a hazard warning was issued in the town where up to 200,000 people are in desperate need of help after being besieged by Serb forces since April.

Bosnian authorities have long been concerned about the danger of damage to the chlorine plant. Large doses of the gas, which was used as a chemical weapon during World War I, cause lung congestion.

Serb forces have intensified their attacks on Muslim-held towns in northern and central Bosnia in recent days despite agreeing to a ceasefire on Nov. 12.

Like Travnik, most of the

targets are on the inner perimeter of a horseshoe of land, comprising about 70 per cent of Bosnian territory, where Serbs have taken sole control since rebelling against Bosnian independence.

Capturing the towns and expelling their Muslim populations would consolidate the new independent state the Serbs want to create.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said Serb artillery units shelled Gradacac, Olovo, Maglaj and Muslim targets near Brcko during the night and Saturday morning.

A Reuters correspondent who crossed the northern land corridor controlled by the Bosnian Serb army saw heavy reinforcements of fresh troops being taken towards Gradacac and Brcko Friday.

Many appeared to have been brought from the Serb-held Krajina enclave in neighbouring Croatia.

Sarajevo Radio broadcast warnings that snipers were active all over the Bosnian capital after overnight attacks on Muslim districts by Serb artillery, mortars and heavy machineguns.

Six international aid flights were unable to land because fog interrupted operations at the airport.

Serb army commanders accused Croat forces in southeast Bosnia of breaking the ceasefire by shelling villages near Trebinje Friday and during the night.

Meanwhile, mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen ended a two-day visit to Croatia Friday without convincing

Serbs to comply with a U.N. peace accord in the Serb-held Krajina region.

"We made very little progress... there are no changes," was all that Mr. Vance would say at Zagreb Airport as the two chairmen of the Geneva conference on Yugoslavia boarded their plane.

Earlier Friday at a meeting in Erdut, in Serb-held Croatia, he described the situation as "bleak."

"The situation which has been presented here is very difficult. It is a bleak situation, in many ways, but I think some progress has been made," the U.N. special envoy told reporters.

The two men were in Croatia for a first-hand study of reasons for the failure of Mr. Vance's plan for demilitarisation of three U.N. protection areas captured by rebel Serbs last year.

The Serbs Thursday refused to accept demilitarisation, arguing it would leave them open to Croat attack, in particular after the Yugoslav federal army withdrew from their territories.

"A demilitarisation is out of the question," Knin Radio reported Bozo Martinovic, a local Serb official, as saying. Knin is the seat of the Krajina region and long a thorn in the side of nationalist Croats.

The Serbs insist on the right to self-determination and to choose the state where they want to live, arguing that Croatian secession from Yugoslavia last year has deprived them of their own country.

ANC march peaceful despite threats

JOHANNESBURG (R) — An ANC pro-democracy march on the conservative town of Nylstroom went off peacefully Saturday despite threats by pro-apartheid rightwingers to break it up by force.

The neo-Nazi Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (Afrikaner Resistance Movement) had warned that there "might be a bloodbath" if the march went ahead.

About 700 marchers handed a petition to security officers protesting against police harassment and racist attitudes of whites in the town, 300 kilometres north of Johannesburg.

Earlier, Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht handed a letter to the authorities asking them to stop the march as "an injustice to whites and a triumph for the ANC."

A small group of white right-wingers were turned away from roadblocks at the entrance of the town.

The government granted security forces emergency powers in Nylstroom and six other districts to search and arrest potential troublemakers.

The ANC is planning similar marches in the next week to the districts of Ellisras, Pietersburg,

Potgietersrus, Naboomspruit, Thabazimbi, and Warmbaths. The African National Congress (ANC) said Saturday reformist President F.W. de Klerk had squandered an opportunity to set up an impartial probe into the activities of all armed groups in South Africa.

It said he should have extended the powers and authority of an independent standing commission probing political violence following allegations that military intelligence officers had tried to subvert the ANC through a dirty tricks scheme.

"The ANC is deeply disappointed in the failure by President De Klerk to extend the powers and authority of the Goldstone Commission," it said in a statement.

"Furthermore, the opportunity to have an impartial and thorough investigation into all security forces, be they the South African Defence Force, the KwaZulu Police or Umkhonto We Sizwe (ANC's military wing), has been lost," it added.

Judge Richard Goldstone, who heads the standing commission, revealed evidence last week that senior military intelligence officers hired a twice-convicted murderer last year to discredit Nelson

Mandela's black nationalist movement. Judge Goldstone asked for more powers and resources to investigate wrongdoing by all armed forces of the government, the black opposition and pro-apartheid groups but Mr. De Klerk said the commission already had sufficient legal powers.

In a separate report issued Saturday, Judge Goldstone said rivalry between members of chief Mangosuthu Buthe's Inkatha Freedom Party and supporters of the ANC had been the main trigger of political violence in Tokozia township east of Johannesburg.

"The political leaders add fuel to the fire of this tension by their use of political rhetoric, by blaming each other, by hurling insults at each other... whereas they could reduce the tension if they were moderate in their language and conciliatory in their behaviour," Judge Goldstone said.

Tokoza and its adjoining Phola Park squatter settlement have been among the main flash-points of political fighting since February 1990, when Mr. De Klerk unannounced opposition groups and began negotiating a new constitution.

India bars Amnesty from Kashmir

NEW DELHI (R) — India will bar the London-based human rights group Amnesty International from visiting the troubled Kashmir Valley, Home Minister Shankarrao Chavan was quoted as saying.

Mr. Chavan, quoted by the Press Trust of India, said: "India will not allow Amnesty International to visit Jammu and Kashmir state. We have to clear many issues before we allow them to visit Punjab."

Speaking at the end of a meeting with a visiting Amnesty delegation, he added: "The government has no objection to Amnesty visiting Punjab, but the timing of the visit would have to be decided by us."

The human rights group asked Tuesday for permission to visit Kashmir and Punjab where Indian security forces have been accused of widespread human rights abuses.

The government has sent large numbers of troops to both states to combat insurgencies by separatist groups fighting for independence. International human rights groups, including Amnes-

ty, have not been allowed to visit the states in the past.

India is sensitive to criticism of its policy in Kashmir, India's only Muslim state, where more than 8,500 people have been killed in separatist violence since January, 1990.

An indefinite curfew was imposed on Srinagar, summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, Saturday after the body of a Kashmiri independence leader was recovered from a river, police said.

Soldiers were deployed in the old quarter of Srinagar after army divers fished out the bodies of Sheikh Hamid, acting president of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), and three of his colleagues who had been missing since Thursday.

Jammu and Kashmir Inspector General of Police A. K. Suri told reporters Sheikh Hamid had been shot in the chest as he and other JKLF activists tried to escape from a paramilitary police search operation in a small boat on the Jhelum River.

At least nine militants were believed to have drowned when

troops fired on the boat after a house-to-house search operation in downtown Srinagar Thursday, police sources said.

Crowds of people gathered in parts of the tense city, defying the curfew to shout pro-independence slogans. Security force vehicles with loudspeakers fanned out into Srinagar's neighbourhoods announcing the curfew.

Sheikh Hamid's body was taken under heavy army escort to the "martyr's graveyard," a plot by a cricket field in Srinagar, where hundreds of militants and civilians killed in the nearly three-year-old uprising are buried.

Only close relatives and friends were allowed to attend the funeral.

Sheikh Hamid was released in August after two years of detention without trial. JKLF President Yasin Malik has been in a Delhi jail since his arrest in 1990 under India's tough anti-terrorist laws.

The two were among a half-dozen militants who began the armed struggle in Kashmir three years ago.

UNITA absent from Angola national unity congress

LUANDA (R) — Angola, haunted by fears of renewed civil war since its first multi-party elections in September, held a national unity congress Saturday but the UNITA opposition movement failed to turn up.

The MPLA government, which won a healthy parliamentary majority in the disputed elections, said the former rebel movement had been invited to the meeting to discuss formation of a national unity government and other issues.

"They did not respond," armed forces commander General Antonio Franca "N'dalu" told reporters.

UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi, who lost many of his top aides in fierce fighting in Luanda three weeks ago, has been seeking safety guarantees for UNITA delegates.

UNITA officials in Lisbon and Washington said the group would only attend if political prisoners were released and UNITA officials in government custody since the Luanda fighting were allowed to participate, conditions rejected by authorities.

The U.N. special representative in Angola, Margaret Anstee, said she had offered an airplane to pick up UNITA officials in Huambo, the group's headquar-

ters in the central highlands, and to provide security.

"It is unfortunate they are not here. We are not going to get very far without participation of all parties," she told Reuters.

But she said a high-level government delegation, probably headed by Gen. N'dalu, planned to visit Mr. Savimbi in Huambo next week and this was promising.

Diplomats said the government had done little to facilitate UNITA's participation and was keen to form a new administration quickly to deal with the UNITA military threat.

A dozen small parties and the

ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) attended the meeting, opened by President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos in a Luanda conference hall.

Mr. Savimbi rejected the Sept. 29-30 poll as rigged and mobilised his troops.

Since then, UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) has occupied over 60 per cent of Angolan territory in violation of May 1991 peace accords. Thousands of people died in fighting earlier this month, raising fears of renewed civil war.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Former KGB head points finger at CIA

ROME (AP) — A former head of the KGB denied Soviet involvement in the 1981 shooting of Pope John Paul II in an interview published Friday, pointing his finger instead at the CIA and other Western secret services. "I never found even a trace of our involvement in the attack on the Pope," Leonid Shebarshin told the Italian daily Corriere Della Sera. "My personal conviction is that it was a covert operation by the CIA, in collaboration with other 'sister services'." CIA spokesman Peter Earnest said: "Any allegation that the CIA was involved in any way in the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II is absolute nonsense." Mr. Shebarshin, head of the KGB's foreign operations from 1989-91 and briefly head of the Soviet Secret Service from August 1991 till its dissolution later that year, told the newspaper that he had no proof of his accusations. But he was quoted as saying he could see "no other motive for the shooting" than implicating the Bulgarians and the KGB in order "to turn Catholics against us."

Clinton discussed jobs with lawmakers

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — Aides to President-Elect Bill Clinton discussed possible cabinet appointments with an assortment of lawmakers this week and have not singled out Senator Lloyd Bentsen for treasury secretary, a spokeswoman said Friday. "There were a wide variety of subjects discussed with Senator Bentsen, various cabinet positions, various qualifications that we would be looking for," Max Parker told Reuters. "Those same discussions were held with a variety of people on the Hill (Congress) but I'm not going to get into names," she said. News reported Thursday that Mr. Clinton's transition director, Warren Christopher had talked over the powerful treasury portfolio with Sen. Bentsen during Mr. Clinton's two-day trip to Washington that ended on Thursday night. Asked if his name had come up in connection with the top economic job, Sen. Bentsen said: "Yes, and I told him (Christopher) that I'm not seeking a position, I'm happy where I am." The influential Texas Democrat, a vice presidential candidate four years ago, chairs the Senate Finance Committee and wields immense power over tax policy on Capitol Hill.

1 killed, scores hurt in Bangladesh storm

DHAKA (R) — One woman was killed and nearly 50 people were injured when a storm Saturday flattened or blew away hundreds of houses on Saint Martin's Island in the Bay of Bengal, relief officials said. They said dozens of homes were also damaged in Teknaf, Bangladesh's southernmost district when winds gusting up to 60 kph (37 mph) battered the area. Rows of plastic and bamboo-made shanties in camps for Burmese refugees near Cox's Bazar were also blown down but officials said none of the refugees had died. Cox's Bazar is temporary home to nearly 300,000 Burmese Rohingya refugees fleeing alleged military persecution. "The number of casualties may go up when detailed reports from all the affected areas will be available," one official at Cox's Bazar said, adding that he still believed very few lives would be lost.

Greece becomes WEU's 10th member

ROME (R) — Greece Friday became the 10th member of the Western European Union (WEU) defence grouping, an Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Rules about the defence of any WEU member that 18 attacked had to be changed last June to make sure the group was not drawn into any conflict with Greece's historic rival, Turkey. This had long been the main obstacle to Greek membership. On Friday, Turkey became an associate member of the WEU. The Greek entry will not become official until it has been ratified by the parliaments of the other nine members. The WEU parliamentary assembly warned Wednesday that ratification would depend on Greece's record in enforcing U.N. sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia.

Mother's death is new blow to Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — For President George Bush, a time of political loss has also become a time of personal grief. As his mother, Dorothy Walker Bush, died Thursday, the president was deep in the melancholy task of preparing to turn over the keys of government to Bill Clinton. His wife, Barbara, had just finished showing the White House, her home of four years, to Hillary Clinton, who will live there for the next four. The president left Washington at mid-day Friday to spend the weekend at Camp David with at least six Republican governors and their wives.

Ghali rejects sanctions against Khmer Rouge

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has cautioned the Security Council against imposing sanctions to punish the Khmer Rouge for refusing to honour Cambodian peace accords.

The secretary-general also confirmed elections for a Constituent Assembly would take place in May whether or not the Khmer Rouge joined and he supported a French proposal to hold a separate presidential election that would probably put Cambodia's titular leader, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, in office.

In a major report to the Security Council, the U.N. chief referred to measures being considered by Council members and said, "I do not, however, recommend such an approach at this stage," he said adding he favoured "patient diplomacy" as the "best means of getting the peace process back on track."

The United States, Britain and

France have considered cutting off oil and other supplies to the Khmer Rouge through Thailand. France has drafted a resolution threatening an embargo while Washington and London were pushing for automatic implementation if the guerrilla group did not conform.

China has not made known its position but officials said Peking previously has opposed sanctions in principle.

Dr. Ghali indicated such an action would not be enforceable saying it would "depend critically on the full cooperation of neighbouring countries."

Thailand, which shares a border with Cambodia, does a thriving trade with the Khmer Rouge, importing timber and gems, and are unlikely to stop doing so.

Under terms of a peace accord signed in Paris in October 1991, the Khmer Rouge and three other warring factions would turn

over most of their weapons to the United Nations, retreat to cantonments and help organise free elections in May.

But the Khmer Rouge have refused, distrusting the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), for not taking over the Cambodian government run by its enemies. About 15,000 U.N. troops and 5,000 civilians are in Cambodia in an operation whose cost is estimated at well over \$2 billion.

Dr. Ghali strongly backed previous Security Council stands that elections for a Constituent Assembly would go ahead in May whether or not the Khmer Rouge joined.

But he rejected as impracticable informal French proposals for separate elections after those in May to enable voters in Khmer Rouge territory to join talks on a Constituent Assembly.

The United States and Britain

want a Jan. 31 cut-off date for the Khmer Rouge to join the election process.

Dr. Ghali confirmed earlier Security Council positions that the elections would go ahead in May. However, he warned that without the participation of the Khmer Rouge or the 14 per cent of the population it controlled, UNTAC would face difficulties in securing the safety of candidates and voters.

But he said he agreed with the co-chairmen of the Paris conference, France and Indonesia, on holding a separate presidential election. He gave no date for this election.

Meanwhile, United Nations officials in Cambodia have warned the head of the peacekeeping force there that corruption in local governments is rampant and harassment of opposition political parties is increasing.

COLUMB

Army finds quick use for newly arrived resident

STOCKHOLM (AP) — It is only six weeks old, but an army has already notified it she will be assigned to an armoured personnel case of war. She receives request for her services last a few days after regional cities sent her a reminder to her driver's license. She whose last name was not the Swedish radio report, the northern city of Boden, to several military par-

"Someone obviously is wrong person number in computer," an unidentified said on radio. Although was a mistake, the not Sandra illustrated the off the Swedish system can times demonstrate: The at quickly match a new resident military town with a public perform in an emergency

Women making their presence already in Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — "year of the woman" in p already having an impact Senate. It's getting a w washroom. Majority George Mitchell said a w room was being installed outside the Senate chamber to the men's room. Sen. I said he anticipated the h had work begin before last elections, when voters s new female members to t ate. "It will be adjacent men's room, as is comm in America," a grinning told inquiring reporters at conference Monday at greeted newly elected say sale and female. "This' thing I anticipated some t and directed appropriate taken to meet the need senators." Sen. Mitch Bearing a sign that says "only," the men's room I has been located just a f off the Senate floor on the story of the Capitol. A there have been two fem tors in recent years, the women's room was on d below, where there are washrooms.

In Japan, say it with flowers

TOKYO (R) — A d Japanese florists is off down-to-earth twist on if tional Christmas bouque flowers wrapped in sh genuine dollar bills. A woman for Hanatomo's Tokyo said the sheen, e pricing \$23 one-dollar bat are imported directly fr U.S. Federal Reserve e each. With flowers, they for 15,000 yen (\$120), greenery wrapped in gre may be a costly way to g flowers but there are d Hanatomo said. After the have been put into w thrown away, the sheets cut up into individual d and spent.

Paul Simon slam 'Graceland' case sentence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — American singer Paul Simon condemned as a racist act a three-year jail sentence on the white killer of i South African who perform his "Graceland" album. "miscarriage of justice and the cause," Simon, speak Los Angeles, said in a tel interview. "I am shocked verdict. It is an insult Shabalala family. It is an apartheid than justice." Ti ban Supreme Court test convicted security guard Nicholas of culpable homi shooting dead Headman Si la of Ladysmith black M Singing Group in Natal p last December. The cou enced Nicholas to three y prison and referred the s to the commissioner of t tional Services for a deci whether he should serve i in jail or under a form of arrest at home. Nichol granted bail pending against sentence. Headma had two wives and at k children, was renowned bass trills and was co-fou the group, which sings t Zulu songs and hymns n panied. Brian Curran, a director of Lawyers for Rights, said by teleph sentence seemed inapprop light and his group was aw ing the case. "If you comp courts' judgements in w black violence and bla white violence the end t generally speaking far diffi he added.



Video picture taken from Sky TV shows smoke pouring from inside Windsor Castle (AFP photo)

the building, including paintings by Rembrandt and Rubens and drawings by Leonardo da Vinci, were saved by castle staff, who passed the priceless artefacts to safety, marshalled by Prince Andrew.

Carpets, curtains, antiques and priceless paintings, some of them ripped from their frames, were hastily piled in castle courtyards and taken to safety in a fleet of removal vans.

Set on a hill overlooking the River Thames, Windsor is the largest inhabited castle in the world and boasts a history stretching back to when William the Conqueror built a fortress on the site in 1070.

It draws some one million visitors a year and is the queen's

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